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CAMP TO-HO-NE REMEMBERED

A Boys Camp on Lake Buel Has Left a Lasting Legacy

By Daniel Menaker

In 1921, my uncle, Peter Menaker, founded the To-Ho-Ne Boys Camp on approximately fifty acres of land on the southwestern shore of Lake Buel — property that had formerly been a camp for girls, called Owaissa. Pete’s camp thrived, and in 1924, he bought two hundred additional acres. Nearby and just a bit later on, Pete’s brother, Frederick Engels Menaker (universally called “Enge” — “Rhymes with ‘mange,” he would say) and his business and personal partner, Glen Memmen, established the To-Ho-Ne Guest Camp, mainly for the parents of the kids at the Boys Camp but also eventually for their friends and relations. (To-Ho-Ne meant “Here will we camp,” in a Native American language — I have forgotten which, Algonquin, maybe.)



To-Ho-Ne Boys Camp in the 1920s

Enge and Pete were two of the seven sons of Solomon and Fanny Menaker, immigrants, from, respectively, Vilna and Odessa. My grandparents were political idealists, radicals, fleeing oppression (and, in Solomon’s case, impressment) in the old country. After a failed effort to establish a communal farm in the midwest (so the story I heard as a kid goes), they moved back east, where Solomon, with a partner, somehow managed to start a textile factory in New Jersey. He established profit-sharing with the workers, he and my grandmother socialized with them,

and they also held cultural events, such as lectures and musical performances, for the whole community. When Solomon and his partner in the enterprise had a falling-out, he and Fanny moved up to Columbia County, where they once again explored the idea of communal farming. It didn’t work out, and their sons — young men, now — scattered east and south, to Berkshire County and New York City, as they pursued their own occupations: accountant, shop teacher, Air Force officer, exporter — and camp owners.

I’m not sure why Enge and Pete set up in New Marlborough. I do know that both men had inherited Solomon’s idealism and fashioned their enterprises, however loosely, on the idea of community. Pete’s 1978 obituary in the *New York Times* said, in part, “He sought to imbue campers with the love of the outdoors and sense of responsibility for themselves and others.”

By far the majority of campers, parents, and friends were Jewish — very loosely, for the most part. Secular, for the most part. The Boys Camp was one example of a great proliferation of Jewish camps in the Berkshires and Upstate New York in the ‘20s and ‘30s; they were at first designed, charitably, to provide health, recreation,

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Camp To-Ho-Ne Remembered, continued

and relief from the hot and grimy, polio-ridden (and in many cases impoverished) circumstances of many New York kids; later, many evolved into businesses, but often with a residuum of their original social idealism. (Brandeis University Professor Jonathan Sarna explains that before 1940, about two-thirds of all new Jewish camps were either philanthropic or community based. From 1940 to 1960, that number dropped to less than a quarter.) Physical amenities, too evolved. By the time I was old enough to begin to understand — well, anything at all; maybe six or seven; 1947 or so — the Boys Camp had gone from tents to cabins and was making a living for Uncle Pete and his second wife, Sarah, the less affable and more pecuniary answer to Pete's charismatic romanticism and gauzy socialism.

The kids in the 1950s and '60s were the children of doctors and lawyers and business people, many of whose parents or grandparents, in turn, had come to the United States with the proverbial nothing. Think of it: Often in less than fifty years, these families had gone from usually-benighted immigrant lives to summer camps in New Marlborough. And the counselors: Pete recruited athletic counselors from nearby Springfield College and teachers, who needed summer work, and some young locals from Great Barrington. (One of them was Tom Waddell, who finished sixth in the decathlon in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, and had by then, with Glen's death, become my Uncle Enge's partner.)

The Boys Camp occupied what is, these days, To-Ho-Ne Shores,



Menaker brothers, from left: George, Leonard, Robert (the author's father), Enge, and Peter



Enge calls a square dance at To-Ho-Ne Guest Camp.

starting with a ball field at the western end of the property, then up the hill to the fifteen or so cabins, with an office cabin nearby, from which bugle calls (reveille, chow, etc.) sounded from a turntable-loudspeaker arrangement, then easterly down the hill to the infirmary, the outdoor tables, the mess hall and kitchen, then to the Nature Cabin, and, finally, the big lodge at the lake's edge, where in the evenings the boys sang camp songs — "Kookaburra," "Do Your Ears Hang Low," "Down in the Valley," "Kumbaya," "Oh, Susannah" — and the counselors and older kids performed skits. Anyone with a grain of talent helped put on a show.

The cabins, the lodge — most of the buildings — were painted dark brown, and were functional.

Each cabin sheltered eight or nine campers, with the counselor's little room separated, in the back, opposite the bathroom. No shower. The lake did most of that work, though there were some showers near the docks and boats.

The activities were canoeing, pottery, wood shop, some music instruction, archery, and swimming lessons, all the way up to lifeguard training, and there was a vegetable garden, tended by the kids. There were pranks and practical jokes, many of them played on Pete, who was very deaf but who managed a magnetic kind of camaraderie anyway. The kids would make up songs about him. Everyone sort of idolized him, I think partly because of the distinction his deafness conferred on him. He had a motorcycle, and his cure for campers' homesickness was



The interior of the main lodge at To-Ho-Ne Guest Camp

a substantial, helmetless, somewhat reckless ride on the back—something that he would surely be arrested for now. And he was handsome and strong, and I think some of the young mothers at the very least noticed that.

By 1970, almost fifty years after the camp opened for its first summer, the number of campers had dwindled significantly, and Pete, for health reasons, could no longer run it, and so it closed for good. Pete and Sarah retired to their living quarters in the old chicken house at the junction of Adsit Crosby and Mill River Great Barrington Roads. It was part of the original camp property, and they had early on renovated the southernmost “wing” (apologies) into living quarters. (The chicken house now belongs to Ed Klausmeyer, who has worked miracles upon it.) Pete pre-deceased Sarah, and not long before she died, she or someone else in her family sold the derelict property (falling-down cabins, the lodge destroyed by fire, etc.) to Michael Lappin, who eventually, after some very hard financial times, sold the lots to native Berkshirites and second-homers, creating the development called To-Ho-Ne Shores.

The camp was well run. The men and women who worked there in paid jobs (in the kitchen, doing work on the grounds, repairing equipment, and so on) were treated well. Like all good summer camps, like all worthy enterprises, To-Ho-Ne fancied itself as a distinctive and important institution. And it was, because Pete had a mysterious way of creating a sense of unity and community during those basically arbitrary and transient six or seven weeks. I think it had to do with his essential egalitarianism — he treated the kids like full-fledged individuals, not just campers. It was always amazing to



For many early campers, To-Ho-Ne made a lasting impression.

me, even at a young age, to see the uniqueness and, well, mission of camaraderie, that the camp instilled.

Maybe the socialistic ideas Pete espoused weren't so gauzy after all. I have met grown men and women who say that they considered their camp experiences (not only at To-Ho-Ne but other places, like Greylock and Interlaken) the most formative and crucial parts of their childhoods. Men in their sixties, seventies,

eighties — alumni of To-Ho-Ne — occasionally pull up in our driveway (marked by a “Menaker” mailbox at the foot of it) and tell us about how much they loved their summers at the camp, how important they were to their growing-up.

Incidentally, one early To-Ho-Ne music counselor wrote the camp song, with chord changes that most people would find unusually complex and original. The lyrics went like this:

Here will we camp,
Among the friends at old To-Ho-Ne,
Stout hearts and true,
We'll always march right in to glory.
Onward we go,
To raise the brown and green on high,
And let our voices ring in harmony,
For T-O-H-O-N-E—To-Ho-Ne!

His name was Frank Loesser. □

New Marlborough resident Daniel Menaker, former Executive Editor-in-Chief at Random House and fiction editor at The New Yorker, is a writer and professor, whose most recent book, *The African Svelte: Ingenious Misspellings That Make Surprising Sense*, was published in 2016. Next month: Dan's boyhood experiences in and around the To-Ho-Ne camps.

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THE LEGISLATORS (US) LEGISLATE

A Blow-by-Blow Account of the Annual Town Meeting

by Sandra Fusco-Walker

The 2018 annual Town Meeting brought 112 of the 1,070 New Marlborough voters out to Town Hall Monday evening, May 7. Following an invocation from Owen Hoberman — sounding a timely note in today's partisan world: "We have come together to make decisions about our community, to advocate for our positions but not against others.... Always remember that caring for another is of far greater importance than any differences we may have," Moderator Barry Shapiro advised the gathering to heed the words of actor John Wayne, "Talk low, talk slow, and don't say too much."

In fact, without any talk at all, Articles 1 through 10 were approved quickly and unanimously. Articles 11 through 15 were also approved after Town Administrator Mari Enoch, responding to a question from Patricia Hardyman as to why some salaries were raised and others were not, explained the difference between salaries, stipends, and contracts. Salaried employees, she said, all received a 2 percent COLA, but contracts and stipends are treated differently.

Article 16, addressing the school's operating, transportation, and capital budget was supported by School Committee member Fran Lartigue. Ms. Lartigue said there was a modest increase this year, and although Sheffield would see an increase of \$520,000, New Marlborough would actually see a decrease of \$127,000 in its assessment this year. Ms. Lartigue stated a new committee has been created to review the way towns are assessed for the school budget.

Mark Carson, Chair of the Finance Committee questioned the need for the school to purchase a bus and a plow truck. Ms. Lartigue responded that the purchase would free the school from having to rent a bus when needed for field trips. Other voters asked why, with the school's declining enrollment, the budget continually rises. Ms. Lartigue stated that teacher's salaries, healthcare, and retirement benefits costs increase



The vote in favor of the solar bylaw.

photos by Larry Burke

continually. The 684 students this year are fifteen fewer than last year, she added, but students are lost across grade levels, not just in one class. Consequently, the school can't just cut a classroom teacher or a program. Education, said Ms. Lartigue, is expensive and costs continue to rise, but the School Committee has shown fiscal responsibility and is aware of the issues the towns face while keeping their focus on providing a robust and enriching educational experience for the students. Voters approved the school operating, transportation, and capital budget.

Article 17, appropriating funds to install ADA-compliant automatic door openers at the front of the New Marlborough Library was approved as was Article 18, which covers expenses for the library, Umpachene Falls Park, the Village Green, and the Cultural Council Trust Fund.

Article 19, which would appropriate \$4,000 for the purchase of a turnout-gear washing machine for the Fire Department, passed after Bob Dvorchik of the New Marlborough Fire Department, reading from the manufacturer's information, assuaged a voter's fears that drain-off would contaminate ground water. Articles 20 and 21 were also approved. Article 22, requesting an increase in Police Department salaries, passed after Police Chief Frank explained his desire to increase the number of 4:00 p.m.-to-midnight shifts to five days a week from three.

Singling out the salary of a Saturday Transfer Station worker in Article 23, Doug Newman expressed his concern that it would deprive seniors who

had volunteered in that capacity from a property-tax work-off opportunity. Selectman Tara White assured him that seniors would still be able to volunteer. The article passed.

Articles 24 through 27 carried unanimously, and then it was time for Article 28, which requested that the debt service on the purchase of a \$325,000 Highway Depart-



School Committee member Fran Lartigue defends the District's FY19 budget.

ment grader be excluded from the Proposition 2½ levy limit. A hot topic among locals over the past few weeks, a new grader was needed, explained Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, because the current grader, with 12,500 hours, has been nursed far beyond its expected useful life and is now so old (twenty-six years) that it is difficult to find parts for it. Article 28 passed by the required two-thirds. Article 29, a motion to move \$260,000 from Free Cash to the Roads Project Account passed without discussion.

Mark Carson, Chair of the Finance Committee, explained that the Committee did not recommend Article 30, which would spend \$75,000 to pave the highway driving and parking area at the Highway Garage. He stated the Committee preferred to spend that money on town roads. Another speaker thought the money would be better spent on the Highway Department garage. Article 30 failed.

Article 31 to finance tree maintenance passed. And so did Article 32, which requested funds to secure right-of-ways for the repair of the bridge above Umpachene Falls, but only after Ms. White addressed concerns of a nearby resident that speed limits on Umpachene Falls Road be lowered. Article 33 dealt with the need for temporary and permanent easements for the bridge repair. Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard advised that, because this article included the possibility of eminent domain, it required a two-thirds vote, which it achieved, and the article passed.

Article 34 approving the Town's revolving accounts passed without discussion. Article 35 providing the Board of Selectmen with the authority to move a town meeting outside of the town limits was passed after Selectman Michele Shalaby explained that such a move could be necessitated by weather — for instance if a heavy snowfall, made it impossible to park at Town Hall. Mr. Shapiro stated, 'that as moderator he would be compelled to cancel a meeting if the hall could not accommodate all who wanted to attend it.

Article 36 passed, giving the selectmen the authority to enter into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement



Moderator Barry Shapiro clarifies a question asked by a voter during the two-hour long meeting.

with companies installing solar arrays in New Marlborough. Selectman Yohalem explained that this would provide a predictable revenue stream to the Town and predictable costs to the company. Article 37, creating a permanent Commission on Disabilities, passed without discussion.

Article 38, a proposed by-law to adopt zoning amendments to provide for solar photovoltaic installations, was presented by Peter Tiso,

chair of the Planning Board. Mr. Tiso stated that the by-law breaks solar installations into three groups: by-right roof installations; small-scale ground installations, which would require basic permitting; and large-scale ground systems, which would require detailed permitting.

Ned Wilson, a solar installer, thanked the Planning Board for its hard work but objected to the requirement of a special permit for small-scale ground mounted installations, saying that state law prohibits the unreasonable regulation of solar energy facilities. He proposed an amendment to the article that small-scale ground-mounted installations be allowed by right. Town Counsel Pollard conceded that Mr. Wilson could be right. The motion to amend was passed, as was a further motion

to remove all mentions of a Special Permit Granting Authority in the small-scale ground-mounted installations section of the bylaw.

Mr. Wilson further requested the deletion of a section of the bylaw dealing with the abandonment of solar photovoltaic installations. But Mr. Pollard argued that if a solar installation isn't used for a year, the owner should have to remove it, and Mr. Wilson

withdrew his motion. Finally a motion by Doug Newman to revert to the original statement of the bylaw was defeated when Mr. Tiso said he could live with the bylaw as amended. Article 38, as amended, then passed by the two-thirds vote required to change the Town bylaws.

The swiftest assent occurred next: on a motion to dissolve the meeting. The legislators, as Moderator Shapiro called the assembled voters, had done their work and could go home. □



Ned Wilson, center, proposes an amendment to the solar bylaw that had been presented by Planning Board Chairman Peter Tiso, standing, left.

Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



April 23: Instead of its regular Monday evening meeting, the Board, with all three members present, held a special permit hearing for a proposal by Park Avenue Solar Solutions to build two ground-mounted commercial solar fields in Mill River.

The solar arrays, as previously reported, would be located at 540 and 646 Mill River Southfield Road across from the Highway Department garage on the site of two former gravel pits owned by New Marlborough residents Norman Hankey and Ronald Leonard. As described by Park Avenue Solar's Kirt Mayland, the combined fifteen-acre site will generate 3 megawatts of power, which will be fed directly into the National Grid distribution system. Although they are actually two separate projects, there will be a single access road running perpendicular to Mill River Southfield Road back through the woods to the site, with one set of utility poles and a single interconnection point into the National Grid system.

Mr. Hankey and Mr. Leonard, who will retain ownership of their properties, will lease them to Park Avenue Solar for a twenty-year term with an option for two five-year extensions. **Park Avenue Solar is owned by Altus Power America, a privately-held Greenwich, Connecticut, investment firm with a number of solar installations in South County, including in Sheffield and Great Barrington.**

The hearing, which lasted two hours, was attended by two abutters, Judith Friedlander of Mill River Southfield Road and Mr. Hankey's daughter, Debbie Menin. Although neither was opposed to the project, Ms. Friedlander had questions about the noise associated with the construction of the field. Mr. Mayland said that the only significant noise would occur when the

support posts were hammered into the ground, a process that should take about three weeks.

Physical construction will take place in the late fall or early next spring, he said, and the work is expected to take about three months.

The combined project would produce tax revenue and clean energy for the Town, but rather than paying taxes, Mr. Mayfield said the company is willing to negotiate a twenty-year payment in lieu of taxes, or PILOT agreement, assuming voters authorized such an agreement at the Annual Town Meeting. (They did.)

There were no significant objections to the design or siting of the installation from the Board of Health, the Conservation Commission, or the Planning Board, although **the Planning Board did recommend that the company be required to post a surety bond to cover the cost of removing the arrays if the site is abandoned.** The selectmen approved the application by voice vote, with the following stipulations: that a surety bond be posted and that a low-growth seed mixture be used for planting around the arrays. The Board also imposed some minor restrictions on when the construction can be done.

April 24: The Board met with Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, who was holding a series of meetings with officials from several South County towns, including Egremont, Monterey, and Stockbridge in addition to New Marlborough. Also present were Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, Broadband Committee Chairman Richard Long, and Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee member Fran Lartigue.

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. for a discussion that included road repair funding, the deteriorating condition of Route 57, the school

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budget assessment formula, and broadband, in that order.

Ms. Polito began by disclosing that she is from central Massachusetts, not Boston, a bit of biography she emphasizes in Western Massachusetts, “because I know the people here have long felt that those on Beacon Hill don’t always remember the folks in the farthest points of our Commonwealth.” But she assured those attending for the forty-five minute session that the current administration considers it “a high priority... to understand their needs and priorities so that we can be a reliable partner.”

With that out of the way, the discussion turned to meatier topics, beginning with road and bridge repairs. Ms. Polito referenced the \$1 million MassWorks grant that the Town used last year to resurface Clayton Mill River Road. She said there’s an economic development bill currently before the legislature that would add some \$100 million to the program, at least some of which is earmarked for rural parts of the state. “This was a strategic move on our part,” she said, “to make sure large programs take into consideration the needs of smaller communities.”

She also mentioned the \$50 million small bridge program, but Superintendent Loring informed her that while New Marlborough has a large number of bridges — “almost the most in the county,” he said — none has the requisite length, ten to twenty feet, to qualify for funding under program.

Mr. Loring then asked about a possible increase in Chapter 90 funding, which plays a major role in the Town’s efforts to keep its roads in shape. This year New Marlborough is set to receive some \$340,000 from the program. Over time, however, the Town’s share of the funding has been shrinking as the Town loses population and jobs, a function of the disbursement formula. Ms. Polito was not encouraging, indicating that the administration has no immediate plans to add

money to the Chapter 90 program, nor is it looking to revise the formula by which the funds are doled out.

On a more hopeful note, Ms. Polito asked for an update on Route 57 — saying somewhat playfully, “that’s your lucky number today!” — and she got an earful.

The latest estimate for reconstructing and repaving just the New Marlborough portion of the road, including replacing most of the culverts, is about \$8 million, according to Mr. Loring. But in order to even be considered for funding under the state’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Town must first invest some \$400,000 just to do the engineering design work, and, as Mr. Yohalem put it, “you haven’t even put a shovel in the ground.”

Meanwhile the road continues to deteriorate. “I don’t want to say it’s impassible,” Mr. Yohalem said, “but I challenge you to ride on that road, particularly at night.” Ms. Polito conceded there’s obviously not enough Chapter 90 money available to the Town to do Route 57 on its own. “What you need is a partnership with the state. Let me bring this back to the team,” and then she paused for a moment, as if musing to herself, before saying: **“It’s a public safety issue. There have been a number of accidents on the road.”**

Then it was on to the school budget assessment formula. Ms. White pointed out that the ten-year rolling average formerly used by the state to determine Town allocations to the school budget had been replaced by a formula based on annual enrollments. This has resulted in sharp spikes in yearly assessments, as the number of students in each town fluctuates. “It makes budgeting on a municipal level very tough,” Ms. White said, “not knowing where we’ll end up.”

By way of example, she said New Marlborough’s assessment last year increased by \$220,000, while this year it’s down by \$167,000. At the same time, Sheffield’s

The combined solar installations would produce tax revenue and clean energy for the Town.



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assessment went up this year by some \$520,000. "That's in a year when the school budget didn't change very much," noted School Committee member Fran Lartigue. Ms. Shalaby noted that a shrinking school-age population will cause "those yearly ups and downs to become more and more dramatic." Ms. Polito said she would talk to the secretary about reinstating the rolling average.

Turning to broadband Ms. Polito said the administration is committed to seeing its broadband efforts in the western part of the state through to conclusion, adding there are just twelve towns, out of the original fifty-three, "that are still in decision-making mode, and you're one of the remaining twelve."

Mr. Long responded by mentioning the proposal from Charter, which is backed by MBI, but said the Town is also putting out an RFP seeking proposals from other providers. He said the state has stepped forward with additional funding, "with the only negative being that it's restricted to Charter, about which there's some negative sentiment in town," but he said the town expected to be in a position to make a final decision on a provider relatively soon.

Ms. Polito concluded by saying, "If there's anything else I need to do today to help you reach your decision, talk to me after this meeting. If it's Charter and the [money] the state is committing to the project for 96 percent coverage, then we'll follow you there," adding that for the remaining four percent "we'll work with you to figure out ways to provide service to those harder-to-reach areas."

And that brought the session to a close, but not before Ms. Polito returned to the subject of Route 57 and said she'd like to do a "drive-by" with Mr. Loring to see the road for herself.

May 1: Meeting at 5:00 p.m. in a joint session with

the Broadband Committee, a planned approval of the RFP was shelved because that action was not placed on the meeting's agenda and was rescheduled for May 4. After hearing from Mr. Long that the RFP has been legally vetted and an addendum on a broadband service agreement "is two or three days away from completion," the Board set a release date of May 4 for the RFP and May 25 as the date by which potential broadband providers must respond with their proposals. The date for awarding the contract was set for June 25.

In other business, the selectmen voted to terminate the Town's agreement with Berkshire County Insurance Group (BCIG), which purchases health insurance for about twenty Berkshire County towns and agencies that are too small to purchase group insurance on their own. In a letter to the

Town, BCIG, which is a member of Berkshire Health Group, explained that it has reached out to the existing voting members of Berkshire Health Group, such as school districts and larger towns, and they have tentatively agreed to accept the smaller groups, including New Marlborough, as members, "although nothing has been formalized yet," according to Ms. Enoch. But the transition should be "seamless," according to the letter, "with no change on the employee level" to their health insurance benefits.

Before adjourning the Board took questions from the audience, including one from resident Becky Schreiber, who wanted to know how the Board, as the Town's special permit granting authority, would handle special permit applications that "address multi-million dollar developments." **She cited six other towns that have expanded their special permit process to deal with large-scale operations and she wanted to know what the Board, or perhaps the Planning Board, needs to do to achieve the same for New Marlborough.**

"I don't want to say it's impassible, but I challenge you to ride on that road [Route 57], particularly at night."

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The Board did not have a ready answer to her question. Instead, Ms. White allowed as how “it could be addressed,” while Mr. Yohalem seemed to favor setting up a special committee that would report back to the Board on how to deal with it. And with that the meeting was adjourned.

May 4: With the Board of Selectmen and the Broadband Committee back in joint session at an 8:00 a.m. meeting, the two groups approved a resolution committing the Town to “selecting the most responsible and responsive proposer and best overall value to the Town,” and then voted to release the RFP as of noon that day.

The two groups then spent the better part of hour defining the steps by which a broadband provider will be chosen, as follows:

- A selection committee headed by Town Administrator Enoch in her role as Chief Procurement Officer will evaluate and rate the proposals submitted in response to the RFP and make a recommendation to the Broadband Committee.
- The Broadband Committee will evaluate and choose among three options: a) the winning RFP bid, b) Charter Communications’ proposal, and c) a town-owned broadband system.
- The Broadband Committee will then hold a public information meeting describing and comparing the three options with the goal of getting input from residents of the town
- And finally, the Broadband Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, which will make the final decision.

With regard to Charter, which is dealing directly with MBI and therefore not likely to be responding to the RFP, the Broadband Committee has prepared a document asking Charter to respond to all the same

criteria that responders to the RFP are being asked to provide for the purpose of comparing the Charter proposal with the other options.

The Broadband Committee then adjourned, while the Board of Selectmen began to prepare for the Annual Town Meeting three days away.

May 16: Because of Town elections on Monday, May 14, the Board moved its regular weekly meeting from Monday and convened on Wednesday at 8:00 a.m., with Mr. Yohalem conferencing in by phone. This being the first meeting after the election, the Board, as is customary, reorganized, electing Ms. Shalaby chairman and Mr. Yohalem vice-chairman.

In other business the Board received a letter from the Southern Berkshire Regional School District requesting the appointment of a representative and an alternate, preferably selectmen or members of the Finance Committee, from each of the five district towns to serve on the Regional School Agreement Review Subcommittee, formed late last year by the School Committee. Ms. Shalaby volunteered to represent the Board on the subcommittee, and was so appointed. The Board then asked Finance Committee Secretary Prue Spaulding, who was present at the meeting, to include an item on the next Finance Committee agenda requesting the appointment of one of its members as the alternate.

As previously reported, the five district towns have expressed growing concern about the unpredictable swings in their annual school budget assessments, which, according to the letter, the subcommittee will be addressing, and which ultimately, the letter goes on to say, may result in changes to the assessment formula in The Five Town Regional Agreement. (For more on the assessment formula, see the Board of Selectmen report for April 24.)

The Broadband Committee is asking Charter to respond to all the same criteria that responders to the RFP are being asked to provide.

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Photos by Sandra Fisco Walker

The Lieutenant Governor Pays a Visit: Above, Karyn Polito and Selectman Nat Yohalem get acquainted. Top right: Ms. Polito reviews the Southern Berkshire Regional School District budget, as the Board asks for a restoration of the ten-year rolling average formula to determine annual allocations. Right: Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, center, lays out the cost of reconstructing Route 57.

The Board voted to recommend to the Finance Committee a Reserve Fund transfer in the amount of \$1,063 to pay the Highway Department's latest propane bill. As explained at a previous meeting by Town Administrator Enoch, there was a 30-cent-a-gallon rise in the price of propane, plus an increase in the number of heating degree-days this year, even as the Highway Department's propane budget was cut, with the result that there's no money left in the propane budget, with yet one more propane bill after this one coming due before the end of the fiscal year.

Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch reported that Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has awarded the Town a Direct Local

Technical Assistance (DLTA) grant to assist it in preparing an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, which the Town is required to complete before it can apply for state or federal grant money for the ADA-required renovations to Town Hall.

Separately, she said the Berkshire County Sheriff's office has indicated it will not be able to help the Town this summer with its weed-whacking around the guardrails on town roads. For at least the past two summers the Sheriff's office has made House of Correction prisoners available to do this work under its Community Service Program. □

Peter Schuyten

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MAILBOX



I would like to thank all the residents who supported me in my campaign for re-election as your selectman in New Marlborough. Your phone calls, encouragement, interaction with others, and letters of support helped to make this a successful campaign.

The next three years will be no less challenging than the last three have been. Now is the time to work towards common goals on our quest to keep New Marlborough an affordable place to live and work and, at the same time, to preserve the quaintness that we all enjoy about our town.

I encourage all residents to bring their questions, recommendations, or comments forward to the boards and committees that work for you. These volunteers work hard all year long and are open and willing to listen to what is on your mind. Understanding what happens within our town begins with understanding how the different Boards and Committees work.

Again, thanks to all of you. If you would like to discuss any issues, please contact me at 229-7754 or by email at: tarabw@verizon.net.

Tara White

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 21: Commission members Freddy Friedman, Rona Easton, David Hosford, and Dave Herrick convened the month's meeting.

Ms. Colleen Puzas from SWCA Environmental Consultants presented a Request For Determination of Applicability (RDA) for CVE North America, the developer of a 5 megawatt solar facility to be located on the northeast section of a parcel on Knight Road. Nearby property owners, Mr. and Mrs. John Palfini, Robin Schultz, and Louise and Nat Yohalem were also present for the hearing. Ms. Puzas explained that the total area of the solar project is proposed for twenty-three acres, with solar arrays occupying sixteen acres of that total. Access will be via an existing wood road off of Knight Road. Ms. Puzas explained that the wood road will be upgraded to a twelve-foot-wide gravel road with a ten-foot-wide mowing area.

Louise Yohalem, an abutter to the property, expressed her concern that the installation and operation of the solar facility would impact an intermittent stream that feeds a pond on her property. The Commission explained that the intermittent stream is not under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and that the pond is farther than two hundred feet from the solar panels and is outside the buffer zone. Robin Schultz then expressed her concern that she would see the panels from her property and that there would be pollution from the panels. The Commission advised her to ask that the developer plant a row of shrubs to shield the panels from sight. Ms. Puzas explained that there is no pollution from the panels. The Commission approved the application and issued a negative determination saying that the project is not subject to regulation under the Wetlands Protection Act.

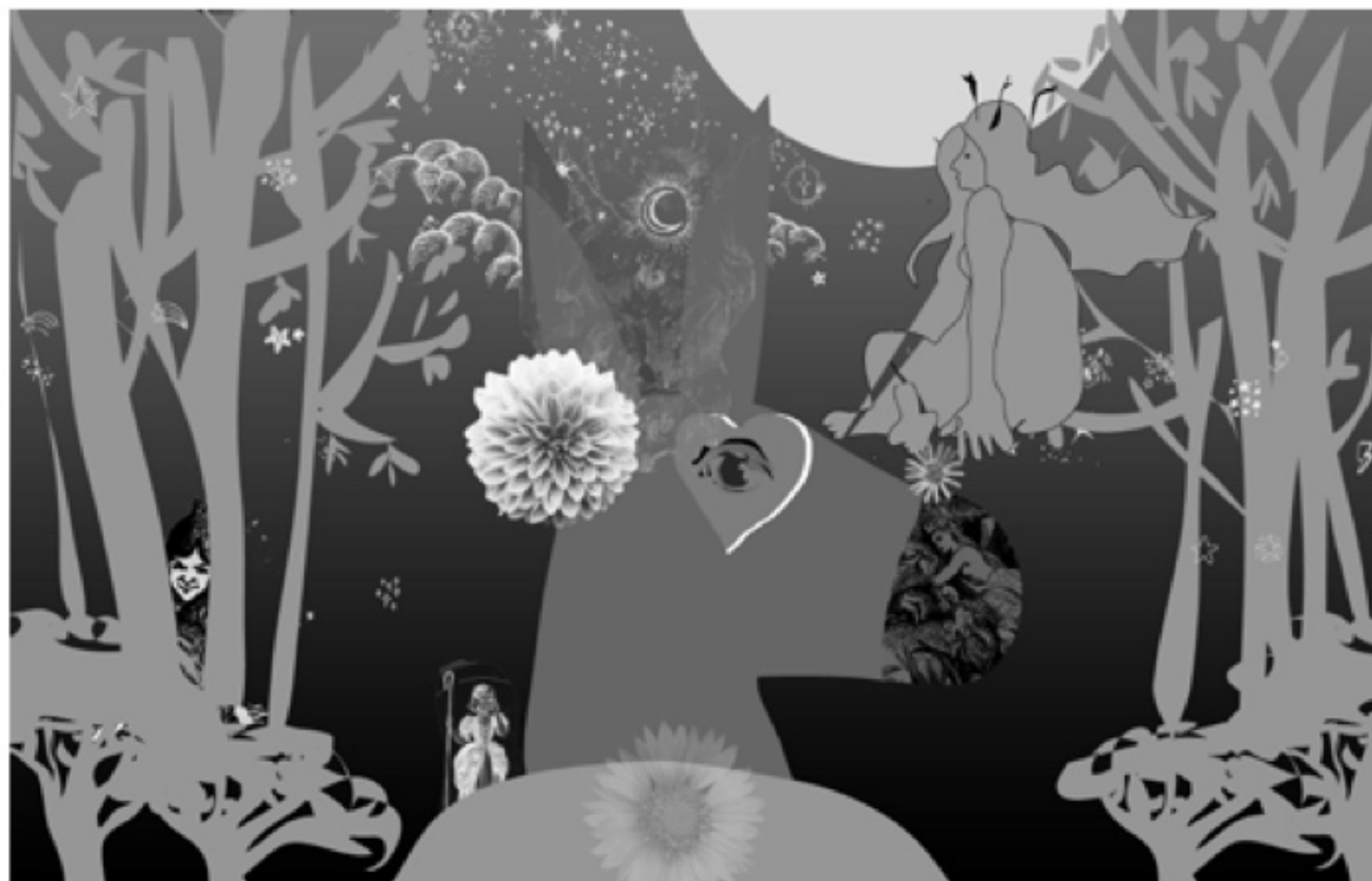
The Commission then moved on to review "old business." A request was received from Craig Okerstrom-Lang of Okerstrom Land LTD, Landscape Architects, to withdraw a previously filed Notice of Intent for the Gilmore residence at 100 Foley Hill Road. The Commission voted to approve the withdrawal.

Discussion then moved to the special permit for the Park Avenue Solar Solutions project on Mill River Southfield Road. Tara White was present on behalf of the Mill River Water Takers. She cited that the Department of Environmental Protection had concerns about the location of the access road. It was noted that the applicant had revised the plans to resolve that concern. The Commission agreed to issue its findings to the Board of Selectmen, which affirm that: 1. The RDA for the project was given a negative determination (meaning that no RDA is required); and 2. Its recommendation that the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP) be notified of the project.

Mr. Dennis Regan of the Housatonic Valley Association then addressed the Commission to explain the association's effort to do a stream assessment of the Konkapot River. Mr. Regan explained the scope and intent of the assessment and asked that either the Board of Selectmen or the Conservation Commission co-sign a letter addressed to property owners along the Konkapot. The Commission requested that the letter include a request of the land owner's permission to do the assessment and that Town counsel be consulted before they agree to co-sign the letter.

Lastly the mail was reviewed. Approval from NHESP for the Forest Cutting Plan for Bette Ann Stalker on Hartsville Mill River Road was received. □

Martha Bryan, from not-yet-approved minutes of the meeting



*"New Marlborough Summer Solstice"
digital collage by Matt Poindexter.*

BROADBAND UPDATE

APPROACHING THE 'LAST MILE' — AGAIN

by Barry R. Shapiro

New Marlborough's long journey to a land flowing with high speed internet may finally be nearing the elusive "last mile." While residents have had a glimpse of the Promised Land, before the road veered off on a detour, there is reason to believe that this time may well be different.

On May 4, the Broadband Committee issued what it hopes is its last request for proposals (RFP). (None of the RFPs it previously sent out led to a definitive agreement with a service provider.) Interested responders to the current RFP are required to submit their bids by May 25. The Broadband Committee plans to review the bids quickly, prepare comparative data on all available options, and then hold an open meeting — target date June 16 — to present its findings and hear what New Marlborough residents have to say about them.

"We hope to make our recommendation to the Board of Selectmen soon thereafter, hopefully before the end of June," says Broadband Committee Chairman Richard Long. "In making our recommendation, the Committee will look at the responses to the RFP and information

we receive from Charter Communications as well as a town-owned option." As a regulated cable company governed by cable franchise law, Charter is not required to reply to the RFP, but the Committee has requested that Charter provide it with the same information it would have offered had an RFP response been obligatory. (As reported last month, Charter has expressed a strong interest in serving the town and is strongly backed by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, the state agency providing financing for "last mile" projects.)

Mr. Long expects the Board of Selectmen to choose a broadband provider sometime in July. The Board will need to determine whether a formal town meeting to approve its decision is either required (due to borrowing or other legal issues) or simply advisable, giving residents the opportunity make the final decision.

As of this date, four companies have requested the RFP. Three of them, Matrix Communications, Fiber Connect, and Crocker Communications, have had prior discussions with the Broadband Committee. The fourth, White Mountain Cable Construction, is a privately-owned company about which Mr. Long had not yet obtained any information. The RFP requires each of them to provide detailed information about how they would build and operate a fiber-to-the-home network, such as cost, timing, and services to be provided to subscribers. Mr. Long hopes that bids will be received from most of these parties.

So, once again, as was the case with Frontier Communications last September, the "last mile" appears to be coming into view. Residents will learn this summer whether this vision portends the arrival of high speed internet or turns out, once again, to be a mirage. □

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June 9 7:00 PM	The Zolla Boys Bluegrass Brother Harmony
June 16 7:00 PM	YeeJin Yuk Piano
June 23 7:00 PM	Sarah Cunningham Viola da Gamba
June 30 7:00 PM	The Russet Trio Fiddle, Bass & Guitar
July 28 4:00 PM	Vera String Quartet Norfolk Music Festival Fellows

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BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

Oasis Campus Pulls Its Plan and Is Granted More Time

By Larry Burke

After the drama of recent months over the specter of an industrial-scale marijuana production facility arising in Hartsville, a near-term resolution of the issue played out in a remarkably low-key fashion. Perhaps this had something to do with the fact that, at the outset of the Special Permit Hearing continuation on April 25 for the Oasis Campus application, scheduled to start at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, neither the attorney representing Oasis, Peter Puciloski, nor Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard, were anywhere to be found. As a bemused crowd of roughly fifty townspeople looked on, the three selectmen and Oasis C.E.O. Joshua Seitz quietly talked over how to proceed in the absence of legal representation.

At 6:25 p.m., Mr. Puciloski arrived, with great apologies to all, and the meeting got underway. Mr. Seitz then delivered a statement to the assembled public, in which he said that, while work on revision of the plans for the Oasis site has proceeded, more time is needed, and therefore he comes before the Board seeking a further continuance of the Special Permit Hearing for another month. He went on to say that he and his lawyer had already decided to eliminate the largest of the planned structures, a 30,000-square-foot warehouse and storage space. Then, in response to questions that had been raised at the first round of the hearing, Mr. Seitz spoke of his personal history, his family ties to the Berkshires, his prior experience in U.S. and European investment banking, and his intention to make New Marlborough the center of his life going forward. He ended his remarks with his hopes and expectations to be a job creator and a source of tax dollars for the town.

Mr. Puciloski followed up by saying that the heavy snows in March and early April had made it impossible to conduct a topographical study on the property but that a site visit was planned for May 13. He also made a point of saying that a 15,000-square-foot building shown in the special-permit site plan would include an office for Mr. Seitz, to insure that "it would not be a case of an absentee landlord."

After Chairman Tara White opened the meeting to questions from the Board, Selectman Nat Yohalem asked Messrs. Seitz and Puciloski: "Have you considered withdrawing your application and refile at a later date, without prejudice?" Mr.



Photos by Larry Burke

Joshua Seitz, standing, discusses with Selectmen Shalaby, White, and Yohalem on how to proceed in the absence of legal representation.

Puciloski replied that they would not want to withdraw if that meant losing their "grandfathering," by which he meant that they did not want to become subject to whatever new marijuana bylaw might result from the recently adopted moratorium.

The discussion then moved on to considering whether a postponement of one month would be sufficient. Mr. Puciloski thought that six or eight weeks might be a better timeframe. Ms. White asked if the sixteen areas of concern that had been identified, including water usage, engineering specifications, lighting, and security, would be addressed in the forthcoming plan. Mr. Puciloski replied in the affirmative, and also agreed to Mr. Yohalem's request that a flow of information to the Board of Selectmen be maintained as the revisions develop.

A bit of contention occurred as Chairman White stated that no public comment would be allowed at this continued hearing. From the back of the room, Susan Smith, an attorney who lives in New Marlborough, stood to refute Ms. White's ruling, and, after a brief back-and-forth, Ms. White then concurred that attendees of the meeting would be heard. First to the microphone was Barbara Marchione of Mill River, who drew a contrast between the previous night's Special Permit Hearing for a large solar installation, in which the applicant, Park Avenue Solar Solutions, had "all their ducks in a row," and the Oasis Campus application, which "with all due respect, has so many questions



Attorney Peter Puciloski, standing, confers with Joshua Seitz just prior to withdrawing the Oasis Campus application.

that should have been answered by now.” Mr. Puciloski replied that they are busy redesigning the project, but Ms. Marchione insisted that the design should have been completed before the first Special Permit Hearing back on March 12. Susan Smith followed up by saying that, at this point, no matter what revisions are made, the Conservation Commission and other Town boards will need more time to review the revised application. Mr. Puciloski concurred with Ms. Smith.

Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard arrived at 6:42 p.m., and, after being filled in on what had transpired so far, stated emphatically that Oasis would need to resubmit its application. Mr. Puciloski resisted, saying that what

he and Mr. Seitz are working on is simply a “supplementation” of the original application. The dialogue between the two attorneys continued for some ten minutes, with a short pause in the proceedings as Mr. Puciloski and his client stepped outside to confer in private. Eventually, sensing a losing battle, and after conferring with Mr. Seitz one more time, Mr. Puciloski stated, “We agree to withdraw the application without prejudice.”

At 7:00 p.m., after some further discussion on the conditions under which the application might be re-introduced (primarily that Oasis will not be held to the conditions of any new marijuana bylaw that might come into being within the next year), the Board of Selectmen accepted the withdrawal and adjourned the meeting, thus bringing an end to Chapter One of the saga of commercial marijuana production in New Marlborough. □



Photos by Larry Burke

Mill River resident Barbara Marchione questions the preparedness of the Oasis Campus application.



Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard delivers his opinion on the Oasis Campus application.

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SMALL, BUT OH MY

At the First Meeting House Show: a Limit on Size

By Pam Stebbins

The 2018 season opener at the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery will feature Small Works. Although the artifacts will be small, the show may well be the largest ever in the Gallery. It is meant to introduce the community to some new Berkshire artists as well as display the current work of previous exhibitors. Over seventy artists have requested this year's prospectus — nearly twice the number for past juried shows. Their submissions will be juried in early June by Jacob Fossum and Dan Karp, faculty in two-dimensional and three-dimensional arts at Bard College at Simon's Rock.

Small Works opens on Friday, June 22, with a celebration with the artists from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. There will be wine to accompany hors d'oeuvres prepared by the artists. The show will run from June 23 through July 22 and will be on view Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Among the prospective artists is Mill River resident Robin Tost, a long-time Gallery exhibitor. She was



To be shown in "Small Works": a "quilt" constructed by sculptor Robin Tost of decorative metal triangles, stitched together with metal thread

one of the original artists in the first show and credits the Meeting House Gallery with giving her a chance to exhibit her early eclectic sculptures. As her career has taken her to new areas of exploration and expression, Ms. Tost has continued to show her sculpture at the Meeting House Gallery on a regular basis. This has allowed the New Marlborough community to follow her artistic development as her work has evolved over the past twenty years.

A recent addition to Ms. Tost's portfolio is a larger-than-life metal patchwork bird, *Bittern*, which has been installed

at the entrance to the Como Park complex, connecting the Zoo and the Conservatory, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Ms. Tost has family roots in Minnesota, and she is delighted that her sculpture is in a public place associated with art and science.

The Meeting House Gallery is located on Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green and is sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association. □

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Eugene & Elizabeth Rosenberg; Hope Crocker; James & Pilar Oates;
Karen Stiles Brusie, in memory of Bud & Martha Stiles and granddaughter Cindy;
Egon & Joan Fromm; Pat Merrill Maloney; John Kane; John Kane; and Alan & Elizabeth Lombardi

NEIGHBORS



For more than twenty years **Marsha Harvey** has assumed the roles of New Marlborough Library trustee and, upon her move to Ashley Falls, president of the New Marlborough Friends of the Library. Marsha has recently passed the torch as president to **Lisa Beers**, but she has promised to help the Friends wherever she is needed. The New Marlborough Library trustees, staff, and Friends would like to thank Marsha for all her years of service to the library and her help in making the library the warm and welcoming setting it is today.

The past few weeks have been busy ones for **Maureen Krejci's** daughters, **Hannah** and **Danielle Guidi**. Hannah Guidi and **Chad Wilson** were married on April 28 at the United Church of New Marlborough; a reception followed at Gedney Farm. They



Chad Wilson and Hannah Guidi Wilson

honeymooned in Pennsylvania and are now happily settling into married life. Chad is employed by Peter Platt and Meredith Kennard at the Southfield Store. Hannah works in home health care for Visiting Angels of the Berkshires; all of her clients are in New Marlborough. Hannah and Chad live in Mill River with their two children, Aleeah and Caliana.



Danielle Guidi

Danielle Guidi graduated on May 12 from Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts, with a BSN nursing degree. She is currently living in Worcester, Massachusetts, and working in the bakery where she was employed during her college career. She has applied for nursing positions in several hospitals, and while she is excited to have completed her studies, she is looking forward to working in her chosen field. An EMT with the New Marlborough First Responders, Danielle travels home to Southfield to fulfill her commitment to that organization.

Louise Yohalem, of Mill River, shared the news of the completely unexpected death of her brother-in-law: "**Ira Yohalem**, longtime resident of Cagney Hill Road, died suddenly on May 16, at the age of seventy-seven. He served as a member of the New Marlborough Finance Committee and was treasurer of the Barrington Stage Board of Directors. Brother of **Nat Yohalem**, Ira is also survived by his wife, **Shirley**, children **Matthew** and **Beth**, and two grandchildren."

Singer and organist **Frances Neidig**, of New Marlborough, passed away on May 11 at the age of ninety-two. In her earlier years in New York City, she was a soprano with Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians and toured with Mary Martin in *Annie Get Your Gun*. Fran and her late husband, Bob, moved here from New York in 1977.

For many years she was the organist at the Southfield Church, and later was both choir director and organist. Residents who didn't know her work at the church, but who attended Memorial Day parades prior to around 2005, may remember her descant soaring above the community chorus in the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Many of her longtime friends have pre-deceased her, but among her friends from a younger generation, **Linda Brazie**, of New Marlborough, offers these memories: "I had the honor to sit beside Fran Neidig in the Southfield Church choir for several years. She helped me learn and be confident in singing many difficult songs. I loved listening to her beautiful voice. She could reach the high notes and beyond. Her voice was amazing; what a joy just listening to her craft!

"Fran was a good friend. A group of ladies from our church would gather at my home every Tuesday morning. We'd have a cup of tea while we knitted, shared patterns, celebrated birthdays, went on field trips, and solved many world problems. Fran was almost always quiet, but she'd always join us.

"Memorial Day sing-outs in front of the library will never be quite the same. If I listen closely, I'm sure I'll be able to hear her descant and feel the shivers and pure joy of her lovely voice. Fran and my mom shared the same birthday; I always felt we had a special bond somehow because of that. I love you, Fran. Save a spot for me in our next choir." □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

As Don Beauchamp put it on May 2, "Spring has come! I just had two female **orioles** on the feeder." Two days later he followed up with, "Lot's going on! Most of the spring birds have shown up all over New Marlborough. Besides the orioles, I have seen **rose-breasted grosbeaks** and **hummingbirds**, and a young **indigo bunting**." And later in the week Don spotted two more buntings, **catbirds** at his grape jelly feeder, **yellow warblers** by the Konkapot in Clayton, as well as a "very friendly" **American redstart** and a **green heron**.



Rose breasted grosbeak and an indigo bunting

photos by Don Beauchamp



American redstart

photo by Larry Burke

Orioles have been much in evidence. **Teena Parton** has a regular Baltimore visitor at her porch windows and glass door. "I'd like to think he's thanking us for the oranges, but I believe he's challenging his reflected image. Very lovely." **Sandra Walker** got a shot of two orioles in the rain at her feeders.

Sandra's night vision wildlife camera has been getting a workout. In March she captured a shot of a **coyote** in the middle of the night in her backyard, and in late April her camera recorded a series of shots of a **black bear**. In the first one, he is standing erect, looking longingly at the bird feeders that are hanging well above his reach (out of frame in the photo). In the second, the bear has taken measures to get closer to the food source, and is demonstrating his gymnastic abilities by performing on the balance beam that is the Walker's porch railing. Of this close encounter Sandra writes, "He was able to shake off a few suet feeders and cleaned those out. I am now taking in the feeders late afternoon and putting them back out for all the bird families nesting here for a few more weeks. He came back the next night but hasn't showed up again on the cameras anyway."

Ed Harvey got a great shot of three frisky young **white-tailed deer**, one of them especially feeling his oats, in the big corn field down along the Clayton Mill River Road.

Somewhere along the Konkapot, but at an otherwise undisclosed location,



photo by Sandra Fusco Walker

Orioles at the feeder



photo by Sandra Fusco Walker

Bear sniffing...



...and departing



photo by Ed Harvey

Frisky white-tailed deer

Diane Barth has been seeing one or more **bald eagles**. The one she photographed on May 16 was “soaking wet and trying to dry himself on a chilly day. I think I glimpsed a second one, so they’re probably nesting somewhere around there. I’d driven by a few weeks ago and saw a flash of a bird out of the corner of my eye and somehow I was sure it was a bald eagle. Yesterday I happened to be going by again and stopped, stepped out, and there he was right in front of me. It was too late in the day for a good shot so I went back again this morning and there he was again — that’s his ‘hood. They really are fantastic looking, and not subtle with that white head.”



photo by Diane Barth

Bald eagle

Finally, in one of the annual sure signs that spring has finally sprung, a pair of **Canada geese** paraded their four offspring in tight, protective formation on the Flying Cloud farm pond, on May 14. A week or so prior to the birth of these hatchlings, these parents-to-be had, through aggressive posturing and loud honking, contested the rights to the pond with another pair. The vanquished couple then set themselves up on the beaver pond just downstream, using the beaver lodge itself as their nesting site.



photo by Larry Burke

Family of Canada geese



photo by Larry Burke

Nesting on a beaver lodge

Compiled by Larry Burke
lburke2@me.com



LAND TRUST NEWS

There is no better way to leave a long winter behind than to help spruce up our roadsides. Ninety miles of roads in New Marlborough? No problem for dedicated Land Trust volunteers. At the spring road cleanup a crew of forty volunteers gleaned a record amount of garbage — three pickup truckloads — from our roads: a discarded toilet, plenty of vodka nips, tire parts, mangled metal objects, beer cans. As one volunteer said while he hurtled his third bag of garbage into a pickup headed for the transfer station, “Oh, glorious garbage!”



photo by Larry Burke

A cast of thousands — well, dozens — turned out for the Land Trust’s road clean-up day.

Shortly after daybreak on Mother’s Day, an adventurous group met host and teacher, Amber Spring, at the boat launch of Thousand Acre Swamp for a few hours of birding. Given the timing of the season, migrating warblers were the anticipated prized sightings. Before heading up Hotchkiss Road the group scanned the pond. No sooner had a participant noted that a bald eagle was allegedly nesting at the pond, than Ms. Spring alerted the group to a sighting: “11 o’clock, a bald eagle at the top of a group of deciduous trees across the pond.” The group fumbled to adjust their binoculars and was rewarded with a rare glimpse of a white-hooded bald eagle! The chestnut-sided warbler, yellow warbler, red-tailed hawk, and veery were among other sightings for the morning. It was an inspiring way to start the day and several people advanced their birding life lists. □

Martha Bryan

FROM BACH TO BLUEGRASS

A New Season of Musical Excellence at the Southfield Church

By Robert Olsen

Music at the Southfield Church, now in its fourth season, returns with a scintillating array of musical styles and traditions. There will be six concerts in all, five of which will be held on the five Saturdays of June, starting at 7:00 pm. The final performance of the series will take place Saturday, July 28, at 4:00 p.m.

Our season kicks off June 2 with the return of **Paul Çelebi** at the piano, presenting a program of Brahms, Ives, Villa-Lobos, Corigliano, and Hisaishi. A Pittsfield native and Berkshire Music School alum, Paul is now a senior at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and pianist with the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble.

The **Zolla Boys** return June 9 in a much anticipated evening of Bluegrass Brother Harmony. The Boys' banjo player will be joining them this year, ensuring that a night of rhythm and riffs will be ratcheted up a notch or two.

YeeJin Yuk will make his Southfield Church debut on June 16 with a piano recital of Bach, Beethoven, Gershwin, Liszt, and Rochberg. A Berkshire Musical School alum, YeeJin is now a junior at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University.

Sarah Cunningham, world-renowned viola da gambist, will make her Southfield Church performance debut June 23. Last fall, Sarah, accompanied by Richard Egar, harpsichordist and musical director of the Academy of



Ancient Music, used our sanctuary to make a recording of works by J.S. Bach, due to be released later this year. Sarah, who has performed around the world, is now on the faculty of the Juilliard School's newly created Historical Performance Department and will be performing with the Aston Magna festival this summer.

The Russet Trio, featuring Aldo Lavaggi (fiddle), Peter Madsen (guitar), and Stuart Kenney (upright bass), debuts June 30 playing a broad range of original and traditional tunes with Celtic and Appalachian roots, performed with generous swing, high energy, and groove.

The Vera Quartet, Norfolk Music Festival Fellows, will end our season on Saturday, July 28, at 4:00 p.m. The Vera Quartet, the graduate quartet-in-residence at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, is a winner of the Grand Prize at the most recent Plowman Chamber Music Competition, First Prize at the Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition, and Second Prize at the M-Prize Chamber Arts Competition 2017.

Admission to all the concerts is free (a collection to support the artists is taken after each performance), followed by a reception on the front lawn, weather permitting. Music lovers of all ages are enthusiastically welcomed. The Southfield Church is located at 234 Norfolk Road in the village of Southfield. □

THE GARDEN TOUR BLOOMS AGAIN

After a three-year hiatus, the New Marlborough Cultural Council is again sponsoring the garden tour — this year called the Maureen Hosford Garden Tour in honor of Maureen's key role in starting and sustaining the tour over many years.

Five gardens will be open this year: at the homes of Judy Newman and Jeff MacGregor on Hotchkiss Road, Elizabeth and Gene Rosenberg on Rhoades and Bailey Road, Brian Mikesell and John Weinstein on Clayton Mill River Road, and Will and Carrie Regan on South Sandisfield Road, and at Tom Brazie's The Farm New Marlborough on New Marlborough Southfield Road.



The self-guided tour will take place on Saturday, July 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person, though a "family rate" can be established by contacting a Council member. The ticket will contain a description of each garden with a map showing its locations. Tickets, available starting in mid-June, can be purchased at the Mill River General Store, the New Marlborough Library, or from any Council member. Tickets will also be available on the day of the tour at each garden site. □

Barbara Lowman

Upcoming: Events Calendar for June and July

June 1: New England's Stone Walls, how and why our meadows came to be laced with perimeters of stone, a First Friday program presented by master wall builder Kevin Gardner and sponsored by the New Marlborough Historical Society; 7:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, free and open to the public, wine and cheese to follow the program

June 2: Pianist Paul Celebi, playing the works of Brahms, Ives, Corigliano, and Hisaishi, 7:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church; admission is free — a collection to support the artist will be taken

June 9: White Elephant Collection for Burritt Day, at the Rooney House (opposite The Farm New Marlborough) on New Marlborough Southfield Road, 10:00 a.m. to noon

June 9: Bluegrass from the Zolla Boys, 7:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church; admission is free — a collection to support the artists will be taken

June 16, Pianist YeeJin Yuk in a recital of works by Bach, Beethoven, Gershwin, Liszt, and Rochberg; 7:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church; admission is free — a collection to support the artist will be taken

June 22: Small Works, the season's opening exhibit at the Meeting House Gallery, a juried art show of paintings of limited size; opening 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with wine and hors d'oeuvres, on view 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays until July 22

June 23, Sarah Cunningham playing the Viola da gamba, in a concert of Baroque and pre-Baroque music; 7:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church; admission is free — a collection to support the artist will be taken

June 30, Celtic and Appalachian tunes from the Russet Trio, 7:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church; admission is free — a collection to support the artists will be taken

July 6: Industry in Berkshire County, a First Friday talk by historian John S. Dickson on how our forebears put water and human ingenuity to work, 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting House Gallery, refreshments after the talk, sponsored by the New Marlborough Historical Society and free and open to the public

July 7: Maureen Hosford Garden Tour, sponsored by the New Marlborough Cultural Council, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Self-guided tour; tickets containing garden descriptions and a map are \$20, available mid-June at the Mill River General Store, the New Marlborough Library, or from any Council member

July 14: White Elephant Collection for Burritt Day, at the Rooney House (opposite The Farm New Marlborough) on New Marlborough Southfield Road, 10:00 a.m. to noon

July 27: Boundaries, an invitational art show, opens with wine and hors d'oeuvres, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Meeting House Gallery, on view 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, until August 26

July 28: The Vera Quartet, Norfolk Music Festival Fellows and quartet-in-residence at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, 4:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church; admission is free — a collection to support the artists will be taken

OUR TOWN'S FUTURE

With this issue, the 5 Village News begins a discussion of the future of New Marlborough — the challenges and opportunities toward building a socially and economically robust community. This month we hear from Thomas Matuszko, who on May 24 assumed the office of executive director of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Pathways to Vitality

Daunting Challenges — and the Ingenuity Needed To Surmount Them

By Thomas Matuszko

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is in a unique position to understand the communities and people of the region. As a county-wide organization providing technical assistance to our communities, we work on a wide range of items. Berkshire Regional Planning staff has experience in environmental, land use, community and economic development, public health, and transportation planning and we have worked with communities in these areas. In our work we have learned firsthand that most people live and work in Berkshire County because they love the natural amenities the region offers. The term “rural character” is frequently cited as the predominant reason why people live here. And while the meaning of “rural character” is different for everyone, it inevitably involves some aspects of the farm and forest lands, the lakes and streams, the small towns and villages, and the connections that can be made through knowing people over a lifetime.

Rural character is not always easily realized, however. The opportunity to live in the country or a small town, without hearing or seeing a neighbor means it takes a long time to travel anywhere; to work, for medical care, and even, in some instances, for necessities. Being able to enjoy the stars means there aren't lights from shops or employment centers. Low population densities provide us with privacy but cannot support a wide range of businesses or commercial opportunities. Rural roads are scenic, but the lack of a limited access, high-speed transportation system presents barriers to industries locating here. Living expenses are generally higher in rural areas for such basics as electricity. These are but a few examples of the contradictions that this concept of “rural character” presents.

In recent years Berkshire County has faced additional challenges, not unlike other rural parts of the country. The region's formerly strong manufacturing economy



Thomas Matuszko.

has changed due, indirectly, to the pressures of globalization. The loss of these relatively high-paying jobs and the transition to a more service- and tourist-oriented economy has had a profound impact on the region.

The population has been declining for several decades, especially in the age group between twenty-five and forty-five years old. In a survey of young people our organization conducted, one of the primary reasons cited by this age group for not living in the Berkshires is the lack of good-

paying jobs. This missing age group has contributed to a declining school-aged population, which is projected to continue to decline. Declining school enrollments means that our schools will continue to shrink in class size. This then can limit educational opportunities — fewer academic choices or fewer extra-curriculum programs.

Berkshire County's population is older than the rest of the state. There will be increasing demands for services for our elderly. Older folks frequently live on fixed incomes and cannot afford an increase in taxes to pay for increased services. Social isolation is a problem in the county.

Our towns and cities are also stressed. Volunteer organizations and boards have a hard time recruiting members as current members “age out,” and there aren't younger volunteers to fill those positions. This is becoming increasingly problematic with fire and ambulance services, which can endanger our health and safety. The budgets in many Berkshire County municipalities are regularly restrained by the state's proposition 2½ tax limit. Many county municipalities are approaching their proposition 2½ tax limit, which means that, even if they wanted to increase tax

revenues to pay for services, they are prohibited by law from doing so.

While Berkshire County has long been a cultural destination that has attracted second home owners, the changing economic and demographic trends create other challenges. The second home market is contributing to higher housing costs. These costs, along with relatively low wages from service industry-related jobs, make it hard for workers to afford housing.

This list of challenges could present a bleak picture. As I assume responsibilities as the new Executive Director of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, however, I remind myself not to dwell on the "problems" facing the County but to build on the successes in the region and seize opportunities wherever they present themselves. The residents of Berkshire County have a long tradition of entrepreneurship, inventiveness, and cooperation. There are many examples of creative solutions to these challenges. Here are some that I am aware of. I'm sure there are many more.

The county's economy *is* transforming. The recently funded Berkshire Innovative Center in Pittsfield will provide a supportive base for advanced, cutting-edge manufacturing to support the small specialized manufacturing cluster in and around Pittsfield. The

county is fast becoming known as a food destination, partly through the work of Berkshire Farm and Table. The county is more and more becoming an outdoor recreational center. The Berkshire Natural Resources High Road initiative will make it possible to hike the entire county and stay at inns and B&Bs.

Greater attention *is* being given to the elderly. The Age Friendly Berkshires initiative is transforming our perception of aging. The "Villages" model being explored in Lenox and north county, will make it easier for elders to safely and comfortably "age in place."

New models for high-quality education of the county's youth *are* being seriously explored, with the objective of fully preparing our students for college, career, and a life here in the Berkshires. The Berkshire County Education Task Force, a committed group of educators and county leaders, has been working for close to three years to address the vexing problem of declining enrollments. Schools are increasingly cooperating as evidenced by increased cooperation with sports clubs. Educational collaboratives are ways to provide specialized educational opportunities.

Communities *are* exploring new ways to provide high-quality municipal services. Many towns are sharing public health agents and public health nurses through the Berkshire Public Health Alliance. Lee and Lenox are demonstrating that town administrative services can be shared through their shared chief administrative officer. New Marlborough and Sheffield are sharing the use of highway equipment.

Housing costs *are* being considered. Great Barrington and Lenox have established Affordable Housing Trust Funds to provide for housing that is affordable to the area's worker.

Given these examples, I am optimistic about the future of the county. However, we can't ignore the fact that there are some folks here who are less fortunate than most of us or are struggling financially. Another term we hear when we work in the communities is "quality of life." Again, like rural character, quality of life can mean different things to different people. For me, in addition to those things I personally cherish, quality of life means that all of us have the opportunity to succeed and thrive. A key to the future success of the county will be looking beyond our own personal needs and considerations and engaging in actions that benefit us all — and then have the willingness to embrace enough change for those actions to succeed. I look forward to working with the Berkshire County community in the coming years in my new capacity. ❖



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THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|---|---------|------------|---|
| Apr. 1 | 7:53 p.m. | Responding to a report that a vehicle has struck a deer on New Marlborough Southfield Road, officer discovers that the vehicle is gone upon arrival. | Apr. 15 | 6:45 a.m. | Tree down on Hartsville New Marlborough Road near Gedney Farm. |
| | | | | 7:33 a.m. | Tree down on Canaan Southfield Road. |
| Apr. 2 | 2:00 p.m. | A Hartsville resident reports garbage dumped over an embankment near the intersection of Adsit Crosby and Hartsville Mill River Roads. | | 7:48 a.m. | Tree down at the head of Norfolk Road near the bridge. |
| | | | | 8:30 a.m. | Motor vehicle runs into a fallen tree on Route 57; no injuries. |
| Apr. 3 | 11:00 a.m. | Assist Sheffield Police with a party suffering a psychiatric emergency. | | 8:31 a.m. | Tree on wires on Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road. |
| Apr. 5 | 1:55 p.m. | A Southfield resident reports a motor vehicle has run into a post at the intersection of Norfolk and East Hill Roads. | | 9:02 a.m. | Tree on wires on New Marlborough Hill Road |
| | | | | 10:13 a.m. | Tree on wires on Norfolk Road. |
| Apr. 7 | 10:15 p.m. | Caller from the Old Inn on the Green requests assistance with a vehicle that has damaged the lawn in front of the inn and then become stuck in a ditch. | | 1:20 p.m. | Tree on wires on Mill River Great Barrington Road near Knight Road. |
| | | | Apr. 17 | 1:44 p.m. | A Clayton Mill River Road resident requests a license plate registration check on a car whose driver is reported walking near the caller's house. |
| Apr. 7 | 5:21 p.m. | Motor vehicle stop on South Sandisfield road leads to the issuance of a criminal complaint to a party driving without a license and in possession of drug paraphernalia. | Apr. 18 | 11:00 a.m. | Speed limit and York Lake signs on Route 183 near its junction with East Hill Road reported knocked over. |
| | | | | 12:30 p.m. | Following an incident in their jurisdiction, Lenox Police request information on a New Marlborough resident. |
| Apr. 7 | 8:42 p.m. | A motor vehicle stop on Clayton Mill River Road yields two criminal complaints: one to the operator for driving with a suspended license and the second to the passenger and owner of the car for knowingly allowing an unlicensed driver to operate his vehicle. | | 1:03 p.m. | A Sheffield resident reports an extremely low-flying plane, crossing Hewins Road and headed toward New Marlborough. |
| | | | Apr. 19 | 10:57 a.m. | Officers lend assistance at a Mill River residence for a party having a psychiatric emergency. |
| Apr. 8 | 6:24 p.m. | A caller reports a possibly rabid animal on South Sandisfield Road. | | 2:27 p.m. | A two-car accident is reported in Mill River village near the library. |
| Apr. 9 | 10:40 a.m. | Officer assists an Aberdeen Lane resident, who has locked herself out of her car. | Apr. 22 | 12:25 p.m. | Assist the Fire Department with an out-of-control brush fire on County Road. |
| Apr. 11 | 3:12 p.m. | A Hartsville resident reports a disabled vehicle on Route 57. | Apr. 24 | 12:17 p.m. | Assist the Fire Department with an out-of-control brush fire on Hatchery Road. |
| Apr. 12 | 3:27 p.m. | A license plate found on Mill River Great Barrington Road is turned over to the Police Department, which returns it to its owner. | Apr. 27 | 11:13 a.m. | A New Marlborough resident requests information on obtaining a harassment order. |
| Apr. 14 | 10:54 a.m. | A driver, stopped on Hartsville New Marlborough Road near the Old Inn on the Green, is issued a criminal complaint when he is found to be driving with a suspended license. | Apr. 30 | 11:29 a.m. | Southfield resident reports items missing from her residence and her suspicion of possible drug use in the area. |
| | 1:54 p.m. | Caller reports a one-car motor vehicle accident on Canaan Valley Road; no injuries. | | 11:00 p.m. | A car owner reports that a driver struck and damaged his car, parked at Gedney Farm, and then left the scene without notifying him. |
| Apr. 15 | 6:20 a.m. | Tree down on Route 57 | | | |

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

Fire and Rescue

April 3	7:35 p.m.	Stone Manor Drive Medical Call	April 17	12:01 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road CO Alarm
April 5	1:58 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call	April 19	8:32 p.m.	Norfolk Road Fire Alarm
April 11	2:39 a.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call	April 19	10:58 a.m.	Hill Heights Road Medical Call
April 12	11:09 a.m.	Shunpike Road Medical Call	April 21	4:53 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
April 13	10:25 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call	April 22	6:45 a.m.	Corashire Road Medical Call
April 14	5:08 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Fire Alarm	April 22	12:25 p.m.	County Road Brush Fire
April 16	7:10 a.m.	Norfolk Road Trees/Wires Down	April 23	9:07 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Fire Alarm
April 16	7:35 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Trees/Wires Down	April 24	6:07 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call
April 16	8:34 a.m.	Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Trees/Wires Down	April 24	6:41 a.m.	Stratford Road Medical Call
April 16	9:05 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Trees/Wires Down	April 24	12:14 p.m.	Hatchery Road Brush Fire
April 16	10:14 a.m.	Norfolk Road Trees/Wires Down	April 28	8:30 p.m.	Corashire Road Medical Call
April 16	12:05 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Trees/Wires Down	April 28	10:19 p.m.	Norfolk Road CO Alarm
			April 30	9:59 a.m.	Norfolk Road CO Alarm

Fire Company President David Smith

Highway News

MAPPING NEW MARLBOROUGH'S ROAD ASSETS

The New Marlborough Highway Department applied for, and was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA). The grant has been used to contract the BETA Group, Inc. to create a pavement management system for the Town. Chapter 90 funds will be used to pay the balance. The BETA Group is a team of asset management specialists, engineers, planners, and Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) experts who have worked throughout New England.

A pavement management system is a tool used for collecting, analyzing, maintaining and reporting pavement and roadway data. We are still in the early stages of this project. At this time, BETA Group has completed the design step and is currently working on mapping. Mapping will be used to collect information pertaining to not only roadway assets such as traffic signs, guardrails, and culverts, but also pavement material and its condition. Unpaved roads will also be assessed and the information will be included.

We are excited about this project and are eagerly awaiting its completion. Having an inventory of our assets on a computer-based program will help the Town prioritize road concerns and better manage funding. Addressing problem areas which are a hazard to drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians will be a priority. The program will be ours to customize as the roads are resurfaced and as bridges, culverts, and signs are added and replaced. We will also update the program to reflect declining roads due to age or weather disasters. Additionally, having a pavement management program in place will assist in applying for grants, funding, and claims.

We anticipate that in the near future, agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), MIIA, and the state Department of Transportation, will require a pavement management program. Our Town will be prepared. In the event of a disaster, the GIS program will be helpful, as we will have accurate pre-disaster road conditions at our fingertips. And finally, having an exact account of our road miles will assure that the Town is properly reimbursed for all of them.

We estimate that the BETA Group will take six to twelve months to complete the process from project initiation and that the final cost of this project will not exceed \$19,850.

If you would like to learn more about the BETA Group, Inc. and what they have done for other municipalities in New England, go to:

www.beta-inc.com/services/gis-asset-management/. □

Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Cooking, love it or hate it, we all have to do it, and while I love cooking, I am always running out of ideas. To help answer the most-asked question in many of our households, "Mum, what's for dinner?" the 5 Village News will be offering a recipe of the month. One of the many benefits of living in a rural community is the availability of fresh produce and New Marlborough boasts many small farms selling their eggs, meat, fruit, and vegetables at roadside stalls or at the markets.

Fiona Kerr

To begin, Deb O'Brien, our town librarian for the past twenty-five years, shares a family favorite, a recipe from Deb's Aunt Marge, who passed away in 2015, aged 94. Making this dish brings back memories of visiting her exuberant Italian aunt as a child, when Deb would be welcomed by the aroma of a sauce cooking — a homey, warm, and delicious smell that meant comfort. After Deb's family moved to Massachusetts, Aunt Marge would often visit, greeting Deb with joy and excitement and never failing to bring a dish of her much-loved chicken cacciatore. That feeling of being loved by a warm, joyful, and kind person comes wafting up with the sublime aroma of the dish every time Deb bakes this recipe for her family.



Deb O'Brien and Aunt Marge

Aunt Marge's Chicken Cacciatore

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 chicken, cut up into 8 pieces
(boneless and skinless can be used, adjust cooking time accordingly) | |
| Salt and pepper, to taste | ½ cup green olives, halved |
| 10 oz mushrooms, sliced | ½ teaspoon oregano |
| 3 cloves garlic, chopped | ½ teaspoon basil |
| ¾ cup Italian parsley, chopped | 1 28-oz can whole tomatoes |
| ¼ cup capers, rinsed | ¼ cup olive oil |
| 1 cup sweet anti-pasta Italian style peppers | ¼ cup water |

Place chicken in a deep roasting pan and spread all ingredients on top, ending with the tomatoes. Drizzle olive oil and water over mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 ½ - 1 ¾ hours. Serve with polenta or pasta.

Buon appetito!

Chicken can be purchased at Mill River Farm and The Farm New Marlborough, while most other ingredients can be found at the Mill River General Store.



nm5vn.org

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THE WONDERS OF BEE BALM

By Jean Pollock

Yes, spring is upon us! Many of us are already in our gardens, raking out the winter doldrums and exposing them to the sunshine.

As one who grows most of her own herbs, I thought it might be fun to inspire my neighbors to grow and use some medicinal herbs in your own gardens and homes. This spring, as you're thinking about what new plants to put in, why not consider bee balm? A wondrously versatile plant, it is both a medicinal as well as a cooking herb. It's used as a calming herb, it has antibacterial qualities and it has digestive-aid qualities. Then, too, bee balm attracts honey bees, which in pollinating gardens and orchards, are essential to our local farmers.

Bee balm can add visual delight to a summer salad. Simply pick the flowers, check them for insects, pull the petals apart and toss them on the top of your salad. Unless you have sprayed them, for which there really is no need since they are a very hardy and self-reliant plant, they do not require washing — they grow tall, far from the soil. They can also be picked and dried for tea.

Be sure to harvest your herbs on a sunny day, after



Native bee balm, transplanted from growing wild in the Berkshire hills, thrives happily in Jean Pollock's garden.

the dew has evaporated. Clip them about six or eight inches from the ground and gather about eight stems into a bunch; shake them vigorously to remove any critters or dust. Tie them tightly (because while drying they'll shrink) and hang them upside down in a shady spot, away from exposure to rain or dew. They'll take about two weeks to dry. When the petals are crispy-dry to the touch, hold them over a paper bag and, stem by stem, strip the leaves and flowers into the bag. When finished, transfer your herbs into a glass jar with a tight-fitting lid and store away from sunlight.

To make a cup of tea, use 1 tsp. of crushed herb to 1 cup of water. Next winter you'll have a special feeling of accomplishment and delight as you sip a cup of your very own, home-grown tea. If you'd like the taste of a combination of herbs, try adding chamomile, easy to grow, calendula, ditto, or plantain, which grows everywhere and is full of goodness.

Jean Pollock, a nationally-certified herbalist and owner of Mystical Rose Herbals, is the author of Plant Magic – An Herbal Study Guide for Kids, available on her website: www.mysticalroseherbals.com.



The author amidst the bounty of her herb garden photos courtesy of Jean Pollock



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YOUR TURN

NM5VN has established a place for our readers' stories. We encourage you to share your experiences, incidents, or thoughts through this space. Reviewing the rules:

Up to 1,000 words, but short and succinct is best; no politics; points of view are welcome but civility is mandatory; editors reserve the right to accept, reject, and edit.

Send your story to Joe Poindexter at joepoindexter@earthlink.net

Growing Up in New Marlborough

By Angus Kerr

New Marlborough is an undeniably special place. With its babbling creeks, ancient woodland, and colonial buildings, it embodies the essence of New England traditional values. Yet, for one age cohort in particular, these otherwise glorious benefits can come at a cost. One of the most important problems within New Marlborough, and one that dramatically affects the town's youth, is the disappearing population. A greater percentage of people leave the Berkshires than any other county in the state, and it loses population through mortality: on average 500 more deaths than births each year. We currently house the highest percentage of people ages 65 to 84 in the entirety of Massachusetts.

Many students enjoy living in a place with such diverse age groups and the opportunity it affords of getting to know older people. Yet, youth can feel excluded from much of New Marlborough. Many feel that the town is focused on serving the needs of its elders. While this is understandable in some aspects, the youth minority still feel like an outsider group, not entirely embraced by our town.

One result: the lack of venues and establishments focused on catering to high school students, who typically cannot afford the exorbitant prices of many of the region's restaurants and bistros. They find themselves without the classic "hang-out spots" that they may hear about from friends, relatives, or see on television, places where high schoolers are able to interact and socialize freely. Many find themselves at loose ends, living in an area without the amenities available in a larger town. Some credit this to the high rates of drug abuse in Berkshire schools, an epidemic that continues to rise with the introduction of new technologies such as vape pens.

Another consequence is fewer opportunities and options for socializing. As one Mount Everett student stated, it can "become boring when you are with the same people year after year. You rarely meet anyone new." Then there is the physical isolation. Without the modern conveniences of a large town or city, many New Marlborough residents find themselves living an entirely different lifestyle. The miles between student's houses not only causes havoc for school bus routes, but for the student's social lives as well. "I feel so isolated from all of my school friends" lamented one Mount Everett sophomore. "It's even more difficult to stay in contact with my other friends." By this, she is referring to friends who attend schools outside of her district. Many New Marlborough students feel the same way, that the miles between them can often lead to fading friendships, as they find it more difficult to meet as schedules change, school becomes more rigorous, and the miles between seem to grow.

There is, to be sure, a positive element to a small number of people in your age group: It forces students to connect more closely with one another, which leads to the uniquely strong bonds that can occur when students have known each other almost their entire lives. In fact, such strong bonds are what many students enjoy most about living in New Marlborough, and despite not having a diverse array of friends, most students enjoy the few very close relationships that they have.

Certainly, many find it difficult to cope with the lack of activities and venues that would be available to them in more youth-oriented areas, yet students continue to enjoy the serenity and unique life of the Berkshires, the ability to be surrounded with history, nature, and sense of community. It is that sense of community that allows so many students to find a valued home in the five villages of New Marlborough.

Angus Kerr, who lives in Mill River, will be entering his Junior year at Mount Everett High School in September.

NEW MARLBOROUGH'S GRADUATING SENIORS



photo by Jane Burke



photo by Anna Dupont



photo by Anna Dupont



photo by Anna Dupont



photo by Jane Burke



photo by Jane Burke



photo by Anna Dupont



photo by Anna Dupont

Eight New Marlborough residents prepare to begin again — isn't that what commencement means? — as they set out for worlds beyond Mount Everett High School. Commencement ceremonies take place 10:00 a.m., June 2, at Tanglewood in Lenox. Meanwhile, here is a glimpse at their plans.

Top row: Patrick Haiss, gap year with World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farming; Kylie Ruane, Berkshire Community College Nursing Program; Quinton (Harley) Dargie, Berkshire Community College; Courtney Batacchi, Johnson and Wales University
Bottom row: Sean Shalaby, Clemson University; Olivia Marchione, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Katelyn Dawson, Warren Wilson College; Abigail Quenneville; Berkshire Community College

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

Warlight, by Michael Ondaatje

The Dark Angel, by Elly Griffiths

The Shadow Killer, by Arnaldur Indridason

The Outsider, by Stephen King

Adult Nonfiction

How To Grill Everything: Simple Recipes for Great Flame-Cooked Food, by Mark Bittman

Children's Fiction

The Penderwicks at Last, by Jeanne Birdsall

Ocean Meets Sky, by The Fan Brothers

The Honeybee, by Kristen Hall

The True Adventures of Esther the Wonder Pig, by Steve Jenkins

Wash On!, by Michele Marineau

Summer Supper, by Rubin Pfeffer

Children's Nonfiction

In the Past, by David Elliott

DVDs

Avatar, the Complete Book Collection

Black Panther

Dickensian

Dirk Gently Holistic Detective Agency

Mary and the Witch's Flower

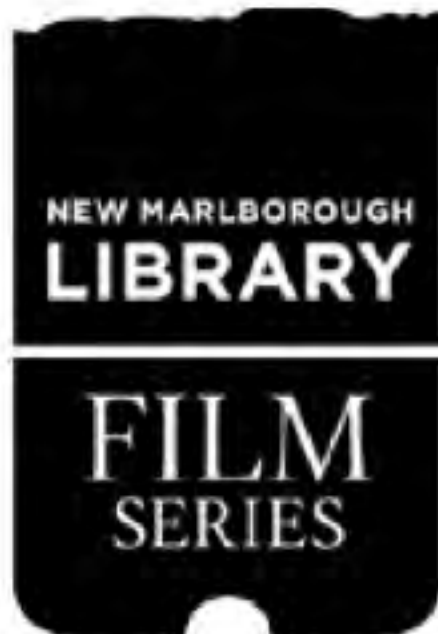


Library Summer Hours

Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tues. & Fri. 1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.



Please Join the New Marlborough Library June 12 at 7:00 p.m. for the first of our summer documentary films, **Loving Vincent**. Space is limited. Please RSVP at 413-229-6668 or newmarlborough@gmail.com. Light refreshments will be served.

Loving Vincent brings the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh to life to tell his remarkable story. Every one of the 65,000

frames of the film is an oil painting, hand-painted by 125

professional painters who traveled across the world to the Loving Vincent studios in Poland and Greece to be a part of the production. As remarkable as Vincent's brilliant paintings is his passionate and ill-fated life, and mysterious death. **Loving Vincent** was first shot as a live action film with actors, and then hand-painted, frame-by-frame in oils. The final effect is the interaction of two performances: the actors playing Vincent's famous portraits, and that of the painting animators, bringing these characters into the medium of paint.



(413) 229-2544
Free Estimates



Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

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

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Town Times

Board of Selectmen: Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.

Town Administrator: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Board of Assessors: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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

Building Inspector: Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Post Office: Mill River (413) 229-8582

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

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

Southfield (413) 229-8476

Window hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(The Southfield Post Office 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 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dog and Animal Control Officer: John Springstube 413-232-7038

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

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Transfer Station Hours:

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

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

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

PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1

and can be purchased for \$125 at Town Hall, the Transfer Station, or by mail. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Late fee of \$150 after August 15.

Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
911**

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244

(413) 229-8165

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

Joe Poindexter, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke, Barbara Lowman, David Lowman, Jodi Rothe, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Pam Stebbins, Sandra Fusco-Walker
Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger, Angus Kerr, Mary Richie Smith, Catherine Twing, Tara White, and Michele Shalaby. Index: Donna Weaver

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated July 2018.

All copy must be submitted no later than June 15.

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

PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

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e-mail 5villagenews@gmail.com

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CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

SERVICE SECTOR 6/18

- **Cohen and White Associates, Monterey office:** Nancy Kalodner, Senior Affiliate Broker. Offering New Marlborough the finest professional real estate services since 1979. Call 528-9595 or (413)446-1111
- **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget-aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. (413)528-4960. chris@design-planning.com.
- **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield (413)229-0050
- **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com or (413)528-4300
- **Reiner White:** General Contractor; (413)229-8450
- **Ter Mar Triangle Farm:** 106 Sandy Brook Turnpike (Rte 183), Sandisfield; (413)258-2898; fruits and vegetables in season; pork; jam; eggs; honey; sawmill; kiln milling; firewood
- **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 (413)229-2369