

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

All Forty-Six Articles Passed – Including One for Which There Is No Budget

By Larry Burke

At 7:03 p.m. on the first Monday of May, Town Moderator Barry Shapiro gaveled the Annual Town Meeting to order. Before getting into the main course – the forty-six articles on the warrant – Mr. Shapiro laid out the ground rules for the roughly eighty-five citizens who had assembled in the firehouse in Southfield, and that included a tutorial on the inaugural use of electronic clickers for vote tabulation. If all goes well, Mr. Shapiro said, this would signal the end the voter-card-held-high era. (And indeed, under the guidance of Marc Trachtenberg, the state-of-the-art system worked flawlessly, no doubt shaving many minutes off the meeting’s length.)



photo by Larry Burke

Moderator Barry Shapiro, standing, far left, addressed the attendees at the Annual Town Meeting in the Firehouse on May 2

Moderator Shapiro then gave a shout-out to the remarkable Prudence Spaulding, who was attending her sixty-second town meeting, a salute to Marsha Pshenishy, who had recently retired from the Board of Assessors after an astounding thirty-six years, and finally a request that we remember four public-spirited New Marlborough citizens who have died in the past year: Owen Wright, David Lowman, Norm Hankey, and James Palmer.

And then it was off to the races. Between the speedy vote tabulations and the lack of questions from attendees, the first thirty-two articles were approved by extremely wide margins in less than twenty minutes. Articles 33 and 34, seeking funding to purchase a highway truck and loader backhoe, were the first ones to attract appreciable no votes, but they still passed easily. In explanation of the Article 35 request to borrow \$500,000 for road repair, Board of Selectmen Chairman Richard Long said that financing is for a five-year plan of reconstruction and repair, with a fifteen- or twenty-year bond that was fully approved by the Finance Committee and will have “a relatively modest impact on the taxpayer.” The article was then approved by 75-12.

Things got interesting with the introduction of Articles 38 and 39, which Mr. Shapiro asked the attending voters to consider as two sides of the same coin – they both addressed the question of whether the Town should offer to pay 75 percent of the health insurance premium of retired Town employees — those who have worked at least twenty hours a week for not less than ten years and are fifty-five or older upon retirement. A citizens’ petition (Article 39) called for this payment to be effective immediately. A measure drawn up by the Board of Selectmen (Article 38) asked voters to postpone a decision on this payment to the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, giving the Board time to study the cost implications of the initiative.

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In the lively discussion that ensued, Chairman Long argued that, given the substantial financial impact of the payment, “a study from an actuarial perspective would be prudent.” Finance Committee Chairman Steve Klein said that the initiative had not been brought before the Finance Committee during the budget season, so that its impact on FY23 budget could not be calculated. “In this town,” he said, “we don’t vote on things we don’t know the cost of.”

Heading up a vigorous defense of retiree health coverage, Sharon Fleck said that, of the thirty-odd towns in Berkshire County, New Marlborough was one of only three that did not provide this benefit. Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring claimed that potential employees would choose to work for towns that offered retiree coverage. “We need a level playing field,” he said. Others argued for the measure on moral grounds. “It is the right thing to do,” said Deanna Mummert.

Then came the vote. Article 38 passed 51 to 37, a clear indication that voters wanted to know the cost of the benefit before granting



Top, As Selectman Tara White listens, Chairman Richard Long recites one of the forty-six articles that comprised the 2022 Annual Town Meeting warrant. Middle, Robert Miller voiced his support for the Board of Selectmen’s bid to delay a vote on the retirement benefit. Bottom, Sharon Fleck stood before the crowd to defend Article 39, in favor of a retirement benefit for Town employees of long standing. photos by Larry Burke

it to retirees. But then... Article 39 also passed, 49 to 42. In other words, a handful of townspeople voted both to delay implementing retiree health insurance benefits and also to begin paying them right away.

Article 43, the first of four articles that would add to or modify the Town’s bylaws, was introduced by Historical Commission Chairman John Schreiber, who described the two-year process of developing and refining the New Marlborough Historic Structure Demolition Pause Bylaw. In his remarks, Dr. Schreiber noted that half the towns in Massachusetts have similar bylaws on the books. He added that the New Marlborough bylaw (or ordinance, as it is more properly termed) is as understanding as possible to the rights of historic structure owners, while at the same time safeguarding the valuable heritage of the town. With little said in the way of objection to the conditions of the ordinance, the vote was 66-22 in favor.

Planning Board Chairman Robert Hartt then stood to present the argument for Article 44, a Dark Sky bylaw. He began by asking for an amendment on the floor

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that would remove the penalty of misdemeanor for violation of the bylaw. He explained that the regulations pertaining to outside lighting would only be applicable to new construction or major reconstruction and that they would only be an encouragement, not a requirement, to homeowners as they go about replacing outside lighting in the normal course of events. When the floor was opened for discussion, Jean Pollock took to the microphone to warn against “taking away our personal property rights.” Mr. Hartt responded, “No one wants to give up personal property rights, but we want to protect what we have because once something is installed, there is no turning back.” Chuck Loring, arguing the case for lighting security, said a break-in at the Town Garage had been stopped with a combination of lighting and cameras. Mr. Hartt responded that “if an area needs to be lit, it can be exempted” from the requirements of the bylaw. He also suggested the use of “adaptive technology,” such as timers and motion sensors. Abigail Crine said that in Hartsville, “We already don’t have a dark sky, and we won’t have a dark sky as long as people continue to light the way they have.”

To a resident who complained she had had no time to acquaint herself with the bylaw, Jane Burke noted that the bylaw and the demolition delay ordinance had been explained in publications disseminated ahead of the meeting, that voters needed to “take the trouble” to acquaint themselves with these proposed regulations ahead of the town meeting, and, in that regard, all town board meetings, including the

Planning Board, are always open to the public. Following overwhelming approval of the amendment, the Article itself then passed by a vote of 53 to 31.

Article 45, which also relates to light pollution, or “light trespass,” was introduced with an amendment to eliminate mention of violations being misdemeanors. After minimal discussion and passage of the amendment, Article 45 passed by a vote of 54 to 26, and was thus added to the Town’s General Bylaws.

And finally, Article 46, an amendment to the Protective Bylaw on solar voltaic installations making small-scale ground-mounted installations in the Village Residential Districts subject to the special permit process. A question on what constitutes “small-scale” was batted around for a bit without a conclusive answer, but when the vote was called the measure passed, 67-11, thus preserving the Town’s perfect game – forty-six out of forty-six approved articles, accomplished in a streamlined two hours and one minute.

In an opinion on the paradoxical result of Articles 38 and 39, Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard stated that the requirement to share in retiree health premium payments was effective upon passage of Article 39 and that it was up to the Board whether to pursue an analysis of the cost as called for in Article 38. Mr. Pollard did not address a related authorization of Article 38 to “delay final action on a post-employment health insurance benefits...” □



Top, Marsha Pshenishny was saluted for her many years of service on the Board of Assessors. Bottom, John Schreiber summarized the components of the Demolition Pause Bylaw. photos by Larry Burke



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ELECTRONIC VOTING: A MODERATOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Of all the issues voted on at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, one of the most popular was the voting itself.

After voting by voice and by hand for hundreds of years, voters at this year's annual town meeting leapt into the 21st century with the introduction of fast, private, accurate, and secure electronic voting.

Many of my fellow moderators have recently utilized voting clickers with great success over the past few years, but I was reluctant to do so at our past two outdoor meetings due to concerns about reliability of the signal under a big tent (some issues were reported at other meetings) and voters having to learn a new technology when many clearly wanted to attend and leave promptly.

From my perspective at the podium, EV, as it's commonly called, was a huge success. The meeting moved along expeditiously, voters instantly learned how to vote (press 1 for yes, 2 for no) and there were no technical issues at all (many thanks to Marc Trachtenberg who quickly learned how to operate the system and did so like a veteran).

All votes were instantly displayed on a monitor at the podium, and I didn't need to stare out at a sea of voter cards trying to determine the result and sometimes needing to engage in an awkward, time-consuming manual



count. My assessment of EV's popularity was confirmed when voters gave unanimous enthusiastic endorsement of the system at the meeting's end and many voters stopped me to state how much they loved every aspect of it, including the anonymity it provided.

Based on our successful maiden voyage, I am now gathering bids from the three major suppliers of EV systems so that the purchase of a system can be properly authorized at our next town meeting (the system for this meeting was rented at a cost of \$2,500 with money found in the current budget). Cost is dependent on the

number of clickers purchased — preliminary bids for 200 clickers indicate a price of about \$7,500. The cost to New Marlborough could be reduced if the system were shared with another town, for example, Monterey, whose Annual Town Meeting falls on a different day from New Marlborough's.

The days of voting by waving a voter card now appear consigned, as the expression goes, to the dustbin of history. □

Barry R. Shapiro

Top, Moderator Barry Shapiro, at the ready with his gavel, Middle, Outgoing Selectman Richard Long introduces a warrant article as Moderator Barry Shapiro looks on. Left, Marc Trachtenberg, overseeing the innovative electronic voting.

photos by Larry Burke



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A GIFT OF CARING

A New Marlborough Resident Chronicles the Creation of a Hospital in India

By Joe Poindexter

Among the newest arrivals in New Marlborough is *Sisters of Mokama*, a non-fiction account of a remarkable health facility in the poorest state of India. The book was recently acquired by the New Marlborough Town Library, but its ties to our town go deeper: It was written by Jyoti Thottam, a part-time resident of Foley Hill Road. It was there, “looking at the sugar maple outside our window, that the footnoting, revising, copy editing were all accomplished,” says Ms. Thottam.

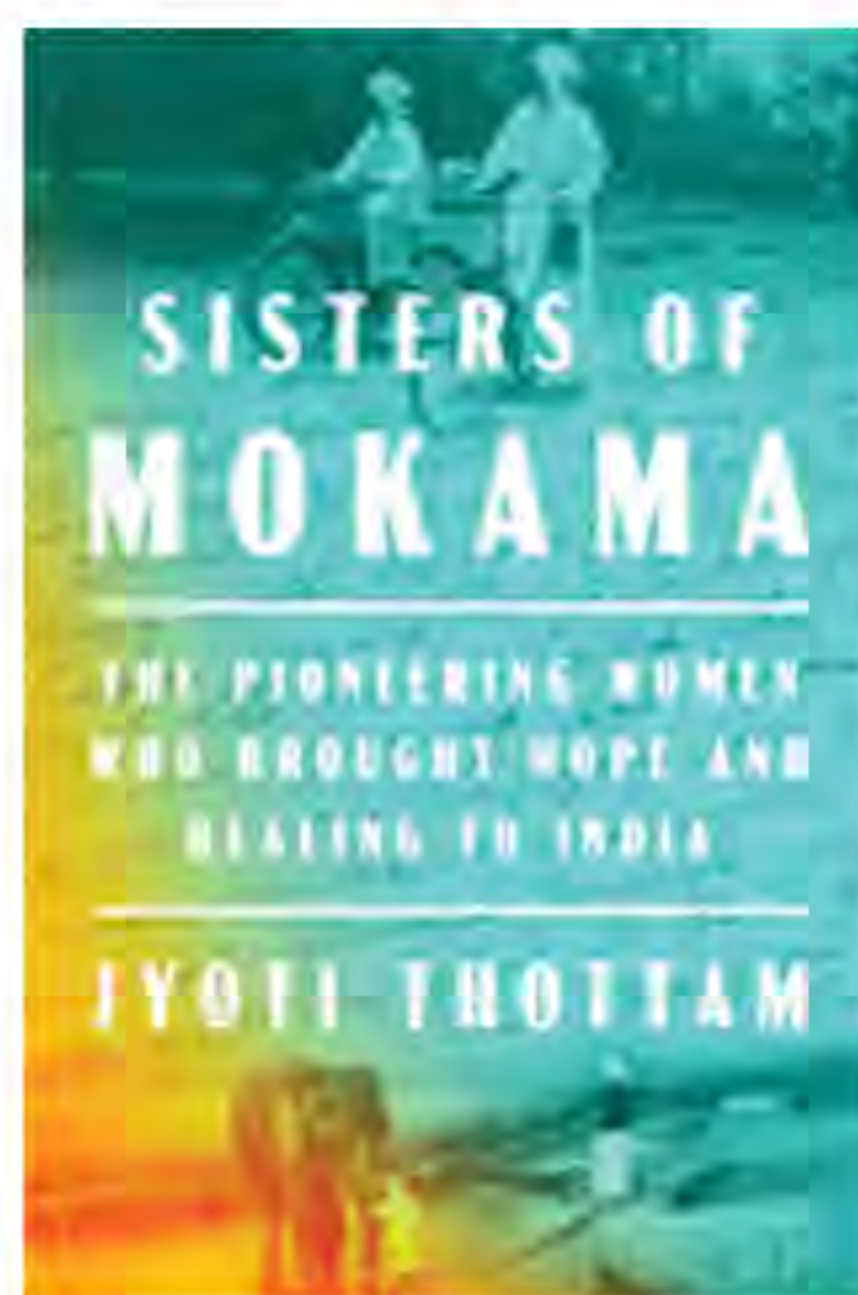
Born in New Delhi, Ms. Thottam moved with her family to the United States when she was three. She spent her early years in New York City and a suburb of Houston, received an undergraduate degree from Yale, and studied international affairs at Columbia, while taking classes in journalism. “I always knew I wanted to be a journalist,” she says.

Some youthful aspirations fade. Ms. Thottam’s did not. She joined *Time* Magazine as a writer and ascended the masthead to the position of South Asia bureau chief, then left *Time* to work as news editor at Al Jazeera America. For two decades and more, however, Ms. Thottam had been examining the start-up and growth of a hospital that had taken root in one of the unlikeliest places on earth, a remote village in India’s most destitute state, Bihar. In 2016, Ms. Thottam turned her full attention to *The Sisters of Mokama*.

The book chronicles the courage of six nuns from Kentucky, who in 1946 started a hospital in Bihar amid the upheavals of the end of World War II, the independence of India from Britain, and the extreme dislocations caused by Partition in 1947. It tells of their pioneering strength in making something out of nothing in those early years of India nationhood and their ingenuity in dealing with all the obstacles of a traditional society. The book also describes the students who, undaunted, broke from family and tradition to pursue their own careers — unheard of in the India of that day.



Jyoti Thottam’s compelling history of the establishment of a hospital in remotest India by six nuns from Kentucky was published in April.



Her interest was sparked by a more personal but equally remarkable bit of history: her mother’s decision — at age fifteen — to travel on her own from the safety of her home in Kerala to the remote village of Mokama, hundreds of miles to the north, to study nursing.

In an attempt to understand this decision, Ms. Thottam made the trip to Mokama herself, visiting Nazareth Hospital in 1998, then returned some ten years later. In 2016, devoting her full attention to the project, she traveled to the Sisters of Nazareth in Nelson County, Kentucky, where she pored over page upon fragile page of the Mokama hospital’s historical record. The fifty pages of sources and footnotes that follow the narrative of *Sisters* provide evidence of the massive amounts of research that went into the book. In a way, Ms. Thottam’s years of effort mirror the

struggles of the founding sisters.

Four years ago, Jyoti Thottam re-entered journalism as business and economics editor of the op-ed section of the *New York Times*. This February, she was elevated to the position of editorials editor.

Like many New Yorkers — Ms. Thottam, her attorney husband, and their two daughters live in Brooklyn — the family felt the need for an occasional breath of rural fresh air. They spent some time in upstate New York and then, through a friend, discovered New Marlborough. They

rented for a time on East Hill and, in 2018, bought their place on Foley Hill Road.

The *Sisters of Mokama* followed them there. “I turned in my manuscript in 2020 and was soon in lock-down in New Marlborough,” says Ms. Thottam. “The book was finished in New Marlborough.” On July 23, she will discuss it at a program at the New Marlborough Town Library. □

Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



April 21: The Board opened the meeting with an acknowledgement that it was in violation of the state's open meeting law by having failed to post minutes of its meetings since late December — a task exacerbated by the absence of an administrative secretary since the resignation of Sharon Fleck from that position in mid-January. It then embarked on the long road of catch-up, spending the next hour and half in vetting the minutes, starting with meetings as far back as December 2021.

April 24: With the assistance of Moderator Barry Shapiro, the Board ironed out details of the electronic voting technology to be employed at the May 2 Annual Town Meeting. It then moved on to a renewal of a three-year radar equipment contract for the Police Department and a lease renewal for the Town Hall postage machine. Following approval of minutes from three previous meetings, this one was adjourned.

May 5: In a meeting aimed at minutes catch-up, the Board reviewed and approved the minutes of seven previous meetings.

May 9: Attending to post-Annual Town Meeting housekeeping, the Board reviewed and signed contract renewals for the police chief, the fire chief, the highway superintendent, and the town administrator. The selectmen also signed a letter of support for a grant application for the Hartsville erosion project.

May 16: In its first meeting following the Town election, the Board welcomed new member Daniel Alden and moved on to the appointment of Mark Carson as chairman and Tara White as vice chair. It then heard updates from the police chief and the highway superintendent.

Graham Frank opened his remarks by noting the substantial increase in paperwork now required of the Police Department in accordance with a recently issued 80-page policy document. He also reported that members of the Department had completed their firearms qualifications and CPR training. Both cruisers, now displaying “check engine” warnings, needed maintenance. Chief Graham then expressed his hope that he could raise the hourly detail rate from \$45 to \$52 an hour, so as to be competitive with the payment in nearby towns. The alleged perpetrator of the break-in at Ormsbee's Garage has been arrested, he said.

Discussion then turned to fines for accidental fire and smoke alarms. Chief Frank observed that “Chuck [Fire Chief Loring] is not in favor of fines, because they may discourage people from leaving their alarms on.” In defense, Chairman Mark Carson noted that the fine barely covered the fuel charge of making a call. Town Administrator Mari Enoch pointed out that the fee schedule was no charge for the first false alarm, \$25 for the second, and \$50 for the third. The issue, however, appears to be moot. Chief Frank said that a couple of bills were sent out but were then recalled in favor of warnings.

Mr. Loring said the Town has no established application for installing alarms and an incomplete listing of alarm registrations. As a result the Fire Department doesn't know the age of the alarm and whether or not it needs replacing. Mr. Carson, saying “this is something we need to work on,” asked Messrs. Loring and Frank to collaborate on the creation of an alarm registry.

Chief Frank expressed his on-going need for “a real police station” and said he was applying for a grant for



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an electric cruiser to replace the older of the two, with 136,000 miles on it, now in operation. He summarized the year-to-date call volume — 639 calls for service, 209 motor vehicle stops, 106 citations, 24 arrests, 13 incidents — and said that he had asked the *5 Village News* to run a monthly summary in The Log.

Next up, Chuck Loring, in his role as fire chief, noted that the ambulance crew was undermanned and that, as a result, he himself had to fill in as ambulance driver twice in the previous week.

In a Highway Department update, Mr. Loring said that the repaving of Route 57 to the Sandisfield town line still had to be put out to bid and would probably be a fall project. He added that Mill River Great Barrington Road needed a top coat and said, in response to a question from Ms. White, that he would get an estimate of its cost. Roads slated to get attention next year include Konkapot, Hayes Hill, Brewer Hill, Norfolk, and East Hill.

Ms. Enoch reviewed the options under consideration for the Town Hall phone contract with Crocker Communications, now up for renewal. An increase in the price per line under the new contract from \$11.95 to \$19.95 spurred a discussion of establishing a main number that would direct callers to individual offices and reduce the number of individual lines needed. The Board deemed this a worthy initiative.

In other business, the Board added Juneteenth (June 19) as an official holiday and noted that, since it falls on a Sunday this year, it will be celebrated Monday June 20. (The holiday is already recognized in the recent contract signed with Highway Department employees.) As a further benefit, paid sick leave days will be increased from three to five days a year.

Next the selectmen addressed the apparent contra-

diction in the voters' acceptance of both Article 38 and Article 39, one of which authorized immediate payment of health benefits to retirees, the other calling for a delay until the cost of such benefits could be determined. According to Ms. White, it was the opinion of Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard that the vote to begin paying health benefits took precedence over the vote to study the matter.

It was the opinion of town counsel that the vote to begin paying health benefits took precedence over the vote to study the matter.

Ms. Enoch said that the Berkshire County Retirement System needed to be informed on the new benefit, as do those who are now eligible — retirees may elect to forgo the benefit. She added that there are sufficient funds in the 2022 budget to cover the cost of the benefit until the end of the fiscal year, June 30. For the future, she said, a trust account, managed by a board of trustees, would need to be established.

With the completion of the repair to the Canaan Southfield Road bridge, said Ms. Enoch, work would begin on the Lumbert Cross Road bridge starting May 31.

Under Board of Selectmen updates, Dan Alden, apologizing ahead of time if, as the “new guy,” he was introducing matters that the Board had previously covered, said there were a few matters of concern to him. First, he asked if an effort to clean up the graffiti at Umpachene Falls Park had been organized. He was advised to check with Graham Frank. He then asked about the Mill River Post Office opening. Ms. White said that unofficially she had heard a “soft” opening, initially without window service, would soon make pick-up of mail available in Mill River.

Mr. Alden continued, saying he has noticed a number of trailers taking up residence around town and asked if there was a permitting process for them. The Board of Health, he was told, was the permitting agency. **Then, noting their prevalence in roadside trash, he proposed**



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a ban on the sale of nip-sized liquor bottles in town. Ms. White said that such a measure would have to be enacted as a bylaw subject to a vote at a town meeting. As an allied issue, he suggested that the Town install "No Littering" signs on its roads. Mr. Carson suggested that Mr. Alden draft a bylaw covering both trash-related issues and present it to the Planning Board. In response to Ms. Enoch's observation that since it was not a zoning issue, the subject bylaw would not have to go through the Planning Board, Mr. Carson observed that its support would nevertheless be helpful. Ms. White noted that the placement of any signage would have to be approved by the Highway and Police Departments.

Mr. Alden asked if a summary of open positions on Town boards and commissions could be created to inform residents of who does what in Town governance. He noted that there are a number of new people in town, some of whom might want to get involved. Ms.

Enoch seconded this initiative and invited Mr. Alden to join her in creating a description of the duties performed by Town employees, both paid and volunteer.

Finally, **Mr. Alden, in the spirit of inclusiveness and gender neutrality, suggested that the Board of Selectmen be renamed the New Marlborough Selectboard.** Ms. Enoch said she would look into what might be involved in making the name change. Mr. Alden thanked everyone for their forbearance while he aired his roster of issues. The Board then moved on to the review of minutes of a number of past meetings, and two hours and twenty minutes after he had opened the meeting Mr. Carson gaveled the session to a close. □

Joe Poindexter



photo by Larry Burke

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PLANNING BOARD

The May 11 meeting of the Planning Board got underway at 7:00 p.m. on the nose, in-person at the Town Hall. Chairman Bob Hartt welcomed new member Jordan Archey, elected two days earlier via a write-in vote, and sworn in as a Planning Board member that very afternoon. Mr. Hartt then thanked Mark Carson, who was present, for his many years of service on the Board. In accepting the Board's thanks, Mr. Carson added that he was "very impressed that all three bylaw changes passed" at the Annual Town Meeting, and with that, he took his leave of the meeting.

Mr. Hartt said that the Attorney General's office would have ninety days to review the three bylaws, and, in the meantime, he thought it might be useful to send a friendly notice of the coming changes to Mount Everett Sanitation in Hartsville and Berkshire Spring Water on Norfolk Road — both of which had been identified as sources of bright nighttime lighting. He hopes to emphasize that lighting changes at this point would be voluntary but would be a demonstration of "being civic leaders." He also said he would reach out to Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring to make sure he understands that the Planning Board appreciates his concerns about nighttime security at the Highway Department.

The remainder of the meeting was largely spent on setting goals for the next year and beyond. In terms of filling out the Board, Tom Sebestyen said he had a lead on someone who might take over for Paul Marcel, since Paul is now spending a good part of the year in California. Bob Hartt brought up the idea of digitizing the Planning Board's files, and, in connection with that, again spoke of the Board conducting a thorough review of all the existing bylaws and regulations, with a view to clarifying them. He and others on the Board wondered aloud whether this might just be too much to bite off, whether the Board had the authority to do that, or if it

is more in the wheelhouse of the Board of Selectmen, and, in either case, whether a paid consultant should be brought in to supply the needed expertise. As a preliminary step, Mr. Hartt proposed that the Planning Board members meet with the Board of Selectmen, and also bring the Building Inspector in to get his take on the idea.

The discussion on cleaning up the bylaws morphed into a more general discussion of the overall aim and purpose of the Planning Board. Mr. Hartt wondered if an attempt to envision what the town should look like in five to ten years would be appropriate, particularly with the possibility of a major increase in construction of new homes and businesses. Tom Sebestyen suggested that another, related goal might be for the Board to find ways to incentivize affordable housing. With the promise of more discussion to come on the Planning Board's future direction, Mr. Hartt adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. □

Larry Burke



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SHINING A LIGHT ON DARKNESS

Why New Marlborough's Dark-Sky Bylaw Was Needed

By Isabella Kemp

Light pollution is caused by excessive outdoor lighting bouncing into the atmosphere. These stray beams, oftentimes coming from unshielded lights, create a visual smog that causes the stars and Milky Way to be less visible. This is a prevalent issue for astronomers and star-gazers as it becomes increasingly hard to view the stars and study the night sky. In populous urban areas, the multitude of lights causes a haze, called skyglow, that has expanded to impact adjacent rural areas. As of today, more than 80 percent of the world's population lives under skyglow.

A large percentage of this lighting is unnecessary. It is usually targeted incorrectly, not well-shielded, or too bright. Light fixtures are rarely focused on what they are trying to illuminate, trespassing into areas where light is not needed or spilling into the sky, creating an uncomfortable glare for drivers, walkers and residents alike. The amount of lighting, in urban areas especially, can also cause a clutter of bright and confusing groupings of light.

In addition to changing the night sky as we know it, light pollution causes adverse effects on the environment, humans, wildlife, and the climate. For centuries, the earth's creatures followed a natural pattern that was guided by darkness and light. As areas become more heavily populated, more light sources are installed, which disrupt the regular day and night patterns and add to the glow of cities at night that overpowers the darkness.

Not just an inconvenience for astronomers and star-gazers, the brightening of the night sky has been linked to high levels of energy consumption and disruption to wildlife and whole ecosystem patterns. Of most immediate concern is the effect of skyglow on human health. The lack of darkness suppresses the production of melatonin, which affects sleep patterns. Melatonin helps us sleep and keeps our immune system strong and bodies functioning correctly. According to the International Dark-Sky Association, exposure to artificial and blue light at night is shown to increase "risks of obesity, depression, sleep disorders, diabetes [and] breast cancer."

Light pollution also has a drastic impact on wildlife as it turns their nighttime environment into one that mimics daytime. Birds are seriously affected by artificial light. They use the moon and stars at night to guide them when migrating and hunting. Artificial light distracts

them from their natural guides and leads to their demise. Insects, which are principal sources of food for birds, are also drawn to artificial light sources and are instantly killed upon contact.

Artificial lighting does, indeed, enhance safety and nighttime visibility, but it comes at an esthetic cost as well. Increased lighting will cause us to lose unmatched experiences. The animals that frequently walk through our backyards or across our paths will be affected by these harsh adaptations to their uninterrupted environment. Our clear, pure dark skies will gradually lighten, a process that may go unnoticed until it is too late.

I grew up in the Berkshires and have lived both in North and South County, surrounded by rolling hills and dense forests. My backyard has been flooded by the Green River and my current home sits at the top of a winding, windswept hill. I grew up watching the sun set over a field into the still, pure darkness of the woods uninterrupted by artificial light. I am now a student living in Northampton. The change was more impactful than I imagined. In Northampton, there is a great deal of artificial light – on the streets and walkways and in the illuminated buildings at night.

Moving from a small, rural community to a more developed area helped me realize the beauty I experienced each evening was one I took for granted. The Berkshires is one of the last places in the country where one can see the Milky Way, and I applaud New Marlborough's recently enacted Dark Skies bylaw in helping safeguard this privilege. □



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SKETCH PAD

With pen and ink, Mill River artist Shawn Fields depicts the New Marlborough landscape as it wakens to summer.





LAND TRUST NEWS

REFLECTIONS ON THE ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

I asked a few of the participants in the Earth Day cleanup to give me their thoughts about cleaning up our roads. Despite the copious litter — we hauled away more than fifty bags — their responses were extremely positive. Here is a sampling — and thank you to everyone who participated.

- It's fun to seek out the “treasures” of litter, especially with a friend, on roadside cleanup day. I'm amused watching the expressions on the faces of the drivers passing by as they view old ladies stooping to secure an item.
- It was a pleasure to participate in the roadside cleanup. Not only was it a beautiful day, but it is my hope that for those driving past and seeing such a great turnout of townspeople pitching in and cleaning up the garbage along our roads, it will encourage us all to be more thoughtful about our trash disposal.
- A man pulled up in his car with his very young daughter. He said that she had asked him what those ladies in the orange vests were doing. When he explained, she asked him to stop so that they could thank us.
- I picked up trash on the Mill River Great Barrington/Lake Buel Road. Though I had brought a very large heavy duty plastic bag and two other large garbage bags and a cardboard box, in less than an hour and in just over a mile from both sides of the road I had collected bottles, cans, and debris that almost filled all bags that I had with me.
- What a great Earth Day. My neighbor and I picked up trash on East Hill Road, as I have for many years. I was surprised to find less litter this time, and I hope this is as a result of people respecting our beautiful land in New Marlborough.
- I had not participated before in any Earth Day event, but chose to help clean our roadsides to say “Thank you, Mother Earth, you are awesome!”
- A lovely day! Sun smiling down, birds singing. We enjoyed seeing farm animals in the fields along the way and gazing at the beautiful countryside.
- Earth Day was a wonderful way for our community to deepen connections, make new friends, rekindle old ones and spend the day care-taking this precious place we get to call “home.”
- This year's collection of beer cans, cigarette packages and nip bottles showed a remarkable fidelity to certain brands. People, you know who you are. Please stop! Deny us the dubious pleasure of cleaning our roads! Thank you!
- Years of picking up beer containers and empty nips make me wonder if nips ever make it home to anyone's house?
- I look forward to the day when there is no trash to pick up !

LAND TRUST EVENTS

Family Wilderness Survival and Primitive Skills at Thousand Acre Swamp — Sunday, June 12, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. What should you know to not only survive but thrive in the wild? Pack a lunch and spend some time in the sprawling forest landscape of Thousand Acre Swamp with your family learning about fire, water, shelter, and food and what to do and what not to do if you get lost. For families with children ages eight and up.

In partnership with Berkshire Camino LLC, Engaging with the Natural World. According to Berkshire Camino's founder and CEO, Mindy Miraglia, “When we follow a ritual to walk with intention, curiosity, and a willingness to let something weighing on us go, it elevates an ordinary walk to a sacred walk.” Join us on Friday, June 24, for a walk at Thousand Acre Swamp, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., or Friday, September 30, at Goodnow Preserve, 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.. Space is limited. Registration can be found on the Berkshire Camino website <https://www.berkshirecamino.com>. Bring water, insect repellent, and sunscreen and wear sturdy, closed-toe footwear

REMINDERS OF USE OF THE LAND TRUST PROPERTIES

All dogs must be on a leash, and clean up after your pet. Take out what you take in. Let us know about your experience by emailing: nmlandtrust@gmail.com. □

Executive Director Silvia Eggenberger

Upcoming: Events Calendar for June and July

June 3: Konkapot Big Boys Film Festival, at the New Marlborough Meeting House, 7:30 p.m., masks required

June 4: Guitar masterpieces from John Suters, 7:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church, masks and proof of vaccination required

June 11: The Paper Anniversary Band, with Katherine Slingluff and Andy Stuckey presenting bluegrass and Americana; 7:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church, masks and proof of vaccination required

June 18: Mariken Palmboom, Harpsichordist with the Berkshire Bach Society, 4:00 p.m., New Marlborough Meeting House

June 18: Calliope, a Renaissance Band, with Ben Harms, Lucy Bardo, and Allan Dean 7:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church, masks and proof of vaccination required

June 24: As the Crow Flies, a show of works by local artists at the Meeting House Gallery's first event of the 2022 season; opening party 5:00 p.m., on display Friday through Sunday until July 17

June 25: Blues singer Billie Williams, 7:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church, masks and proof of vaccination required

July 2, Piano Four hands with Houry and Jacqueline Schmeizl, the mother-daughter duo's first concert in New Marlborough, 7:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church

July 23, The Sisters of Mokama, Jyoti Thottam discusses her recently published book exploring the creation of a hospital in remotest India by six nuns from Kentucky, 1:00 p.m. at the New Marlborough Town Library

July 29, "Simply the Berkshires," the Meeting House Gallery, opening 5:00 p.m. July 29, on view Fridays to Sundays until August 28

July 30, Children's Art Show, Outdoors at the Meeting House Gallery, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

IT'S THE EVENT OF THE YEAR!!! THE NEW MARLBOROUGH CULTURAL COUNCIL'S ELIHU BURRITT DAY WHITE ELEPHANT SALE!!!

Members of the Cultural Council will be accepting your treasures for our August 20 sale as follows:

Saturday, August 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 653 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road, a mile west of the New Marlborough Village Green, Friday, August 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the New Marlborough Village Green.

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING:

- Anything broken, torn, dirty, spotted, unusable
- Books (the Library will have its own collection and sale)
- Drapes, curtains, pillows, blinds/shades
- Furniture larger than can be put into a station wagon
- Bike or ski helmets, baby car seats
- Ice skates or roller skates/blades. Downhill or cross-country skis.
- Electronics – no computers, printers, electric powered household goods. We can't guarantee that they work!



NEIGHBORS



Vern Johnson, of Southfield, passed away on April 14 at the age of sixty. He grew up in Joshua Tree, southern California; some years later he met **Noreen Eichstedt**, of New Marlborough, who was visiting a friend in Joshua Tree. One thing led to another, and Vern resurrected an old school bus from a local junk yard, packed up, and drove it – unregistered and uninsured – to New Marlborough. He made it! He and Noreen were married, and Vern was schooled by his father-in-law, **Leon Eichstedt**, to become a highly skilled carpenter, builder, and creative problem-solver.



Vern Johnson

Tributes to his skill and creativity appear below. Vern was also very generous with his talents. When one of his friends in Southfield was embroiled in a boundary dispute, Vern and his brother-in-law, **John Scapin**, organized a group of tradesmen as Shake, Rattle, and Roll House Movers. They successfully moved her house the requisite number of feet to bring it into compliance with the property boundaries – something she could never have afforded to do without the support of friends and community. His creative enthusiasm will be missed.

John Ormsbee, of Mill River, has admired Vern's work for years: I remember when Vern moved to town in 1985. He was from southern California. He spent a lot of time there in a neighbor's junkyard. He met and eventually married Noreen Eichstedt, who was visiting a girlfriend there. Meeting Noreen led Vern to load up an old school bus with all of his tools and belongings, and move to New Marlborough.

He came as a mechanic and, I will say, a very good one. He then hooked up with John Scapin, his brother-in-law, who is married to Deidre Eichstedt. John was a great upholsterer at the time. Noreen and Deidre's father Leon Eichstedt mentored Vern and John into becoming carpenters and craftsmen. Some of Vern's greatest works were restoring Gedney Farm and building the covered bridge for Bruce Poor on Canaan Southfield Road.

There was nothing Vern couldn't do. He was so smart. Always helping someone out. Vern was a great friend, always having fun; we hit it off right from the start. You often heard him call out "Hey Mister!" "Pretty Good!" or "Get 'er Done!" and he did get it done! A lot of people will miss him and his good nature.

Paul Hess, of Southfield, worked with Vern for many years: Vern, what does one say? Vern was the most incredibly talented, clever fellow I've ever known. I met him shortly after he moved here from California in the mid-80s and bonded instantly. He grew up in the desert, Joshua Tree to be exact. He met Noreen Eichstedt and moved here with her and her boys. They loaded an old school bus with their things and drove cross country with no clutch and a leaking radiator. They arrived here after dark one evening and stayed with John and Deidre Scapin. Over coffee the next morning, Vern asked John "why did you paint your trees white?" having never seen a birch tree before. Basically uneducated, having dropped out of school in the eighth or ninth grade. Nevertheless, he was an ace mechanic. Though he knew nothing about carpentry, Leon Eichstedt gave him a job. In no time, Vern was a master carpenter.

Vern was a whirlwind of energy; he never stopped. Whatever he was doing, he was always "goin' a hunert." Well, the workday is done mister. Rest in peace, brother.

Brad Wagstaff, of Gedney Farm in New Marlborough, had good reason to admire Vern's skill and creativity: Vern was one of those rare people who could do anything. He was extremely skilled and confident in all that he did.

Back in the '80s, he undertook the restoration of the 7,000-square-foot horse barn at Gedney Farm. He was the lead thinker on the project, which involved moving the entire structure sixteen inches and raising the whole barn onto cribbing. His confidence and proficiency fortified the team on this overwhelming undertaking.

I often thought that Vern could have been an astronaut.

Richard Stebbins, of New Marlborough, also had reason to admire both Vern's skill and humor: Vern was one of the most talented builders that I have known. He did some extensive renovations on my house about fifteen years ago. After hiring him, I asked if I could join "the crew." He agreed, but only if I were able to carry an eighty-pound bundle of shingles on my shoulders up a ladder to the roof. I accepted the challenge, but, swaying precariously, I barely managed this task. My other key job was to get a thirty-pack of Buds at 4:00 every Friday in the late afternoon for the crew. In the end, Vern did a great renovation.

Marsha Pshenishny recently retired, after serving as Town Assessor for thirty-six years. During that time, she also served at various times as the town representative on the School Health Committee, on the Board of Registrars, and on the original committee to set up the senior work program. She is currently chair of the Commission on Disabilities.

On May 4, to mark her long career with the town of New Marlborough, friends, colleagues, and her husband, John, gathered at the Town Hall for a brief ceremony and reception in her honor, complete with flowers and cake provided by Kathy Chretien. John Pshenishny and Mark Carson set up the party, attended by Mari Enoch, Alicia Brazie, Mike Britton, Tara White, Wendy Miller, Prue Spaulding, Richard Long, Jessica Horan, and Kathy Chretien. "I really enjoyed working with the people in town and helping people. I worked with a lot of nice people over the years," Marsha commented. Asked what she is planning next, she responded, "My husband and I want to travel and see the United States. We have family in the South, Southwest, and California. We also want to go to Pearl Harbor."

Representative **Smitty Pignatelli** closed the ceremony with the following proclamation: "Be it hereby known to all that The Massachusetts House of Representatives offers its sincerest congratulations to Marsha Pshenishny in recognition of your thirty-six years of dedicated serviced to the Town of New Marlborough. The entire membership extends its very best wishes and expresses the hope for future good fortune and continued success in all endeavors." □

Robbi Hartt

photo by Robbi Hartt



Representative Smitty Pignatelli presented Marsha Pshenishny with a proclamation from the state House of Representatives.


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WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

photos by Larry Burke



A mallard with her ten ducklings, keeping close

Under the sub-heading of cycle-of-life, **Larry Burke** was losing some hens to an unidentified marauder in late April. He set up a trail camera on the most recent victim and waited to see who showed up. A likely suspect, or maybe just an opportunist, arrived in the form of a beautiful **red-tailed hawk** who dined on chicken for over an hour. In mid-May, Larry witnessed a happier story – a **female mallard with ten very newly hatched ducklings** forming a convoy on the farm pond. In past years, the Burkes have witnessed a gradual disappearance of baby ducklings, almost surely due to a very large and hungry **snapping turtle**, but, as of this writing, all ten youngsters were still with their mother.

Another story of the tougher side of the natural world comes from **Scottie Mills**: “I don’t have a picture, but a **bald eagle** has been circling **Scott MacKenzie’s** barnyard. He was worried for the **piglets**. I was skeptical, but when I Googled it, there was a picture of an eagle carrying a piglet away!”

Scottie added a cautionary note on another critter that is showing up in various parts of town: “I want to report a huge invasion of tiny black caterpillars. (These are the larva of **spongy moths**, until recently known



photo by Larry Burke

A well-fed red-tailed hawk

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photo by Scottie Mills



photo by Michelle Dawson

Scott MacKenzie, on the right, seemingly beseeching the eagle to leave his piglets be

A Clayton pedestrian

as gypsy moths.) Some people are very sensitive to their 'fur.' My grandson Milo was covered with welts!"

Yet another mid-May sighting included a report from **John Schreiber**: "This week after the rain, it was all about red efts surfacing in the leaf litter. I know they are very common, but sometimes it's worth spending a moment looking at what is right in front of us. I put the camera on the ground to try and see what life is like from their perspective.

Down in Clayton, where very large black bears seem to congregate, **Michelle Dawson** sent in a photo of a sizeable one ambling along the Southfield Canaan Road. Meanwhile, her husband **Ed Harvey** came across a sleek beaver cruising by him on Harmon Pond.



photo by John Schreiber

An aptly named red eft, enjoying a damp day

Lastly, and perhaps most exciting of all, **Peter Lynch**, who lives in Mill River, was in the right place at the right time with camera in hand to grab some great shots of an extremely handsome visitor: "The bobcat went through the yard while I was watering some saplings. I hid on the deck and managed to snap some photographs while it wandered by." This bobcat could have a highly successful modelling career! □

Compiled by Larry Burke; send your sightings to him at larryjburke@gmail.com

photo by Ed Harvey



A beaver gliding through calm waters



photos by Peter Lynch

Two views of a highly photogenic bobcat

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Apr. 1 2:55 p.m. An officer assists in freeing a truck from the mud on Hotchkiss Road.
- Apr. 7 5:13 p.m. A tow is ordered for a vehicle stopped on Mill River Great Barrington Road whose driver is found to be unlicensed.
- Apr. 8 1:48 p.m. National Grid is notified of a tree on wires on Foley Hill Road
- 6:03 p.m. Tree on wires on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 7:39 p.m. Following a high-speed pursuit, a driver is overtaken and arrested on Clayton Mill River Road. Driver's license was found to be suspended and a large amount of fentanyl and cash located.
- Apr. 12 6:15 p.m. A party of three, fishing the Konkapot without a license, is told to move along.
- Apr. 16 8:02 a.m. The animal control officer is notified when a New Marlborough village resident complains that a neighbor's dogs had been barking throughout the previous night.
- 11:34 p.m. An officer advises that a tree is down on Old Hitchcock Road.
- Apr. 17 12:00 p.m. An officer assists a delivery truck driver in finding an address on Clayton Mill River Road that had been incorrectly recorded on his manifest.
- 4:54 p.m. A Southfield resident reports a fraudulent withdrawal from her bank account.
- Apr. 18 8:49 a.m. A caller reports a trespasser on her property in Clayton village.
- 11:06 a.m. An officer assists a driver who has locked himself out of his vehicle on Hayes Hill Road.
- Apr. 19 3:30 a.m. National Grid is alerted after a caller reports a tree on wires on Hayes Hill Road.
- 5:04 a.m. A caller reports wires down on Tamaridge Road.
- 10:56 a.m. An officer assists a driver who has locked herself out of her vehicle on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 2:13 p.m. After cows are reported loose on Mill River Southfield Road, an officer informs their owner.
- Apr. 21 1:38 p.m. The Department advises a Southfield resident to seek court assistance in evicting a tenant who has overstayed his rental agreement.
- Apr. 22 2:28 p.m. An officer helps resolve a dispute in which a Clayton resident complains of smoke and debris blowing from her neighbor's brush fire.
- Apr. 23 8:39 p.m. A Mill River resident is arrested after purportedly threatening a Southfield resident with bodily harm and then failing to pull over for a pursuing police officer.
- Apr. 25 8:17 a.m. An officer alerts the Highway Department to flooding on Norfolk Road.
- 9:00 a.m. A visitor to Umpachene Falls Park is charged with malicious intent after a video showed him allegedly trying to damage the tire of a car parked there.
- 3:55 p.m. A caller reports low-hanging wires outside his residence on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Apr. 28 4:03 p.m. National Grid is alerted to a fire ignited by a tree on wires on Brewer Hill Road.
- Apr. 29 2:00 p.m. A Southfield Store employee reports inappropriate advances from a customer.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

For the month of April, the Police Department logged 156 calls for service, had 68 motor vehicle stops yielding in 37 citations, 6 arrests, and had one incident under investigation.



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FIRE AND RESCUE

April 1	12:05 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call	April 20	10:57 p.m.	Mill River Southfield Road Medical Call
April 5	8:36 a.m.	Rhoades and Bailey Road Medical Call	April 21	4:40 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
April 8	1:51 p.m.	Foley Hill Road Wires Down	April 21	1:44 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Brush Fire
April 9	6:05 p.m.	Peter Menaker Road Medical Call	April 21	8:21 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
April 12	10:09 p.m.	Rhoades and Bailey Road Medical Call	April 22	4:29 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
April 13	7:26 a.m.	Brewer Hill Road CO Alarm	April 22	6:59 p.m.	Mill River Southfield Road Fire Alarm
April 15	2:08 p.m.	Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Brush Fire	April 28	4:03 p.m.	Brewer Hill Road Wires Down
April 15	7:26 p.m.	Konkapot Road Unattended Burn	April 29	1:18 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Monterey Brush Fire
April 16	2:08 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call	April 29	11:00 p.m.	New Marlborough Hill Road Medical Call
April 18	12:29 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call			
April 19	3:36 a.m.	Hayes Hill Road Wires Down			

Fire Company President David Smith

Did You Know...

...that you can find back issues of the *New Marlborough 5 Village News* on its website, nm5vn.org? Yes, and there's also a handy index to all the articles that have appeared over the years. Check it out!



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This Taiwanese dish is very impressive and very easy to put together. It substitutes ground pork for more traditional pork belly. Served with soft-cooked eggs, a crisp green salad or some blanched or steamed crisp vegetables like baby broccoli or bok choy, it will become a family favorite. Enjoy.

Marjorie Shapiro



Lu Rou Fan: Taiwanese Pork Rice Bowl

Serves 4 Time: preparation and cooking: 45 minutes

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1.5 pounds ground pork | 4 tbsp apple cider vinegar |
| 1 cup low-sodium soy sauce, divided into ¼ cup and ¾ cup (don't use regular soy sauce) | 1/3 cup dark brown sugar, packed |
| 2 tbsp any neutral cooking oil | 3/4 tsp five spice powder |
| 12 ounces shallots, thinly sliced | 1 tbsp unseasoned rice vinegar |
| 8 large garlic cloves, minced or grated | 2 scallions, thinly sliced |
| ginger, about 1" piece, peeled and minced | 4 eggs |

Directions for the pork:

- Mix the pork and ¼ cup of the soy sauce in a medium bowl, cover and refrigerate until ready to use.
- Heat the oil in a large skillet or wok over medium heat.
- When the oil shimmers, add the shallots and cook, stirring frequently, until browned, about 10 minutes.
- Add the garlic and ginger and cook, stirring constantly for about a minute.
- Add the cider vinegar, brown sugar, five spice powder, and ¾ cup of soy sauce.
- Stir until the brown sugar dissolves and then increase the heat to bring the mixture to a boil.
- Cook for about 5 minutes, stirring constantly, until the mixture becomes somewhat thickened and syrupy. If you move a spoon through the mixture, touching the bottom, it should leave a clear trail.
- Reduce the heat to low and wait a minute for mixture to settle down. Then add the pork and break it up into small pieces with a wooden cooking spoon, stirring while it cooks. In about 5 minutes, the pork should no longer be pink and is ready.
- Stir in the rice vinegar.
- Serve over rice, topped with the scallions.

Directions for the eggs:

- Bring three cups of water to a boil in a saucepan.
- Place the eggs in a steamer basket.
- Put the steamer basket in the saucepan and cover.
- Cook the eggs over medium heat for 7 minutes.
- Put the eggs in ice water to stop cooking.
- Peel, cut in half, and place two halves on each plate with the pork.

SCHOOL REPORT ADJUSTING TO A RESURGENT PANDEMIC

The pandemic, now in its third year, continues to challenge the Southern Berkshire School District (SBRSD). The number of cases at SBRSD schools in the first three weeks of May has exceeded the previous high monthly total in all of January when eighty-nine students and fifteen teachers were infected. The totals as of May 18 were 103 students and thirty-two teachers. With the winter break, April vacation, increased socialization and the recent adoption of a masks-optional policy, a rise in Covid cases was anticipated. The size of the increase was not. Student case counts were higher in every school — fifty at Mount Everett, thirty-four at Undermountain Elementary, and eighteen at New Marlborough Central. Faculty and staff case counts were ten at Mount Everett, twelve at Undermountain Elementary, six at New Marlborough Central, and four in the District Offices.

The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which has offered little guidance on how to deal with the resurgence, has provided extra home tests to students in any grade level with fifteen percent infection rates. The challenge of keeping classrooms fully staffed, exacerbated by a dearth of substitute teachers during the pandemic, has been eased by the District's dedicated teachers and staff. They have given up their planning time to cover the classes of their stricken colleagues. Superintendent Beth Regulbuto acknowledged in a report to the School Committee how this impressive effort enabled the schools to continue to function. With the warmer weather teachers have the option of holding

classes in outdoor spaces

Unfortunately, the rise in infection rates has led to the cancelation of treasured year-end events. One casualty was the planned Saturday celebration of the arts at New Marlborough Central, where families would have gathered to enjoy socializing while viewing student art work. According to Kindergarten teacher Lynn Webster, there is a hope to have some kind of art gallery experience before the end of the school year on June 22.

Seniors are hoping that their graduation can take place at Tanglewood again as planned on June 4 at 10:00 a.m. The Seniors' Awards Ceremony is still on for June 1, outdoors on the Sheffield Campus at 5:00 p.m. with a rain date of June 2. New Marlborough Central Recognition Night will take place 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on June 16. On June 21, the Fifth Grade Recognition will be held from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m., and the Eighth Grade Graduation will begin at 6:00 p.m..

An expanded summer program will run from June 27, Mondays through Thursdays, until the end of July. Sandra Hubbard has led the effort to raise funds for this enrichment experience for students who have been invited to participate. Academic classes led by district teachers will be held in the morning, with afternoon workshops provided by community partners, including Flying Cloud Institute. Even if case counts continue to be high, the beautiful outdoor campus will provide safe spaces for the program. □

Jane Burke

ELIHU BURRITT
DAY VENDORS!

Seeking Vendors for Elihu Burritt Day Festival Saturday, August 20, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

On the New Marlborough Green. For further information, contact
Holly Valente villavalente@gmail.com or Wendy Miller brookmedefarm@me.com

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- Shadow Reel*, by C. J. Box
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- Dream Town*, by David Baldacci
- The Cartographers*, by Peng Shepherd

Adult Nonfiction

- The Dirty Life: a Memoir of Family, Food, and Love*, by Kristin Kimball
- The Book of Joy*, by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Demond Tutu
- In Love*, by Amy Bloom
- Sambal Shiok: The Malaysian Cookbook*, by Mandy Yin
- Intuitive Eating: a Revolutionary Anti-Diet Approach*, by Evelyn Tribole
- Half Baked Harvest Everyday: Recipes for Balanced, Flexible, Feel Good Meals*, by Tieghan Gerard

Children's Fiction

- Cress Watercress*, by Gregory Maguire
- A Starless Clan*, by Erin Hunter
- A Vision of Shadows*, by Erin Hunter
- Grandparents Day!* by Candice Ransom
- A Gift for Nona*, by Lane Smith

Children's Nonfiction

- I Begin With Spring: The Life and Seasons of Henry David Thoreau*, by Julie Dunlap
- Volcanos*, by Gail Gibbons
- Listen to the Language of the Trees: A Story of How Forests Communicate Underground*, by Tera Kelley

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photo by Deb O'Brien



Pittsfield author and long-time Berkshire Eagle columnist, Kevin O'Hara entertained a full house at the New Marlborough Library with the adventures of him and his donkey, Missie, as they traveled around the coast of Ireland. In his book, *Last of the Donkey Pilgrims*, Kevin took us all on the road with him.

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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 _____

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Town Times

Board of Selectmen: Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.
Town Administrator: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Planning Board: Second and fourth Wednesday at 7:00 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, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Fire Department training: Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station
Building Inspector: By appointment only; call 413-229-0277
First Responders: Meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station
Cultural Council: Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m. at the library
Post Office: Mill River (413) 229-8582 — if and when it re-opens:
 Window hours: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Saturday 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Southfield (413) 229-8476
 Window hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
Town Treasurer: Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Tax Collector: Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tues. and Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Selectmen's Administrative Secretary: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Dog and Animal Control Officer: Cassie Keeley, (413) 429-7603
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
Library: 229-6668

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 \$185
 by mail or online at
www.newmarlborough.gov.

Please enclose a self-addressed,
 stamped envelope. No admittance
 without a permit after August 15

Emergency calls:

Police, Fire, Medical
911

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244
 (413) 229-8165

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

Joe Poindexter, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Martha Bryan,
 Jane Burke, Larry Burke, Robbi Hartt, Barbara Lowman, Steven Nester,
 Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Marjorie Shapiro,
 Rachel Perera Weingeist. Contributing artist: Ann Getsinger

NM5VN Board of Directors

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at

www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated July 2022.

All copy must be submitted no later than June 17.

For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
 PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

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

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CHANGE SERVICE
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SERVICE SECTOR 6/22

- ◆ **Dellea.biz Computer Services:** has provided local residents with on-site Windows computer repairs and technical support since 1996. Book appointments online at <https://dellea.biz> or call (413) 528-1141
- ◆ **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget-aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. (413)528-4960. chris@design-planning.com.
- ◆ **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 & Sons, Inc:** A family-run general contractor business serving the MA and CT area since 1988 - new construction, additions, remodeling, and more. Licensed and insured. Call (413) 229-8450 for free consultation.

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