



New Marlborough 5 Village News

VOL XIV
NO 3
July 2013

Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

The Class(es) of 2013

by Jane Burke

The New Marlborough School community turned out in force at our wonderful school in Mill River to celebrate two important transitions: the graduation of the seven fourth-graders, and the awarding of scholarships to the New Marlborough students who just recently graduated from Mount Everett High School. After a potluck supper, families gathered in the gym, converted to an auditorium for the festivities. The graduating fourth-graders entertained the audience with a song under the direction of Elizabeth Petty. Principal Erin Woodsome then congratulated them and presented them with their diplomas.

PTA President Kristin Sanzone then made the presentation of scholarship awards to the Mount Everett graduates who had themselves been fourth-grade graduates from New Marlborough Central School in 2005. Recipients were asked to share memories of his or her time at the school. There were smiles and tears as they told of the closeness they experienced in the small school that helped them succeed at the big

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Under the spreading limbs of the maturing plane tree they gave as a class gift eight years ago, the also maturing new graduates posed, left to right, Erik Derwitsch, Eli Cook, Anna Zdziarski, Stefan Zdziarski, Catherine Twing, and Stephaine Chretien. (John Ormsbee was unable to attend.)



photo by Melissa Zdziarski

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photo by Jane Burke

The New Marlborough Central Class of 2013, proudly holding their diplomas: left to right, Liam Coote, Kathleen Dillon, Maile Handy, Shallea Oggiani-Brown, Cooper Rothvoss, and Aleksander Zyszkowski, applauded by Principal Erin Woodsome.

Classes of 2013, continued from page 1

school. Ms. Sanzone pointed out that in this group were both the valedictorian, Catherine Twing, and the salutatorian, Erik Derwitsch, of the Class of 2013.

The evening ended fittingly with a delicious cake. □



photos by Jane Burke



A highlight of the June 1 Mount Everett graduation at Tanglewood was the valedictorian address by Catherine Twing. Graduates from New Marlborough were, clockwise from top right, Eli Cook and John Ormsbee, Stephaine Chretien, Blake Ferrara, Catherine Twing and Carina Alden, Danielle Guidi alongside her proud mother, Maureen, Stefan Zdziarski, and Anna Zdziarski. Congratulations to each and every one!

FORGING SUSTAINABLE FARMING IN MILL RIVER

by Martha Bryan

Despite the fourth day in a row of rain, it is another day in paradise for Jan Johnson, new resident of New Marlborough and new owner of a home and thirty-two acres on Brewer Hill Road. This is a dream come true for Jan, who arrived in the Berkshires two years ago, fired up about becoming a farmer. She had been inspired by farms she had visited in California and upstate New York. She knew what she didn't know, so she spent her first year traveling to visit the best farmers wherever they were and enrolled in an Agricultural Business planning course offered by the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). Meanwhile, she began some experiments on her suburban rental property in Great Barrington. She installed cold frames, acquired a portable chicken house for a small number of hens, started bee keeping, and generally had a wonderful time figuring out how to keep everything alive and productive.

What she learned about farming is that you have to have a value-added product to survive. She chose to expand her hives and produce honey products. She developed flavored honeys, lotions, and candles which she sold at area farmers' market. Her friends rarely saw her because she spent so many hours developing her products and sitting in her booth at the various farmers' markets. She was also constantly in search of a good site for her farm. It needed to be both good for a farm and good for public access so she could add the educational aspect. She was so serious about the importance of educating children about agriculture that she took first grade teacher Susan Weinstein of Undermountain out to meet Alice Waters in San Francisco. Waters is one of the nation's strongest proponents of farm-to-table agriculture and school gardens.

It turned out that finding a good site took two years. She felt very lucky when Herb Abelow and Betsey Colhoun put their farm up for sale. It took no time at all to decide this was going to be great for her. The change of ownership was so quick that she has been able to get in at the start of the growing season. Ms. Johnson has occupied the property for just two months, but her vision to be a model for a sustainable organic farm is well under way. One has to imagine that barely after the moving trucks had driven off, the cows, goats, chickens, asparagus crowns, potato tubers, tillers, and cold frames began to pop up all over her new landscape.

As we talk, she describes her vision for the farm and paces around her kitchen choosing her words carefully. It is almost as if she were writing her progress as she speaks – her business process being part careful planning and part spontaneous adventure, likely a successful improvisation, given the vagaries of farming and of gambling with nature. Seen from her window, the cows are huddled against the fence sheltering each other from the heavy



Photo by Martha Bryan

During a rare break in the rains of June, Jan Johnson paused for a moment with the fields of the newly named Mill River Farm in the background.

rain. The goats are munching on invasive plants as they graze for their dinner. Ms. Johnson is well along the way in assembling the participants – large livestock, perennial and annual vegetables, chickens, and goats – all of whom will play a vital role in the farming system she envisions.

She describes her recent project as fulfilling a “calling” pursued with ample skills developed from her past professional experience in law and business. She has chosen to address a national problem – how to produce healthy food in a sustainable way – and to invest personally in exploring a possible local solution. She is up at 6:00 a.m. meeting with her crew – her farm manager, an intern, and some part-time helpers – and often weeding for a few hours before breakfast. After working the soil with a spade, she turns to her other primary tool, the computer, for marketing, research, education, and community outreach.

Her vision for the farm, named Mill River Farm, is to be a model small working farm that is economically viable and environmentally sustainable. She hopes the farm will be a resource open to children and local school programs. She also believes that the education of a child who later might contribute to public policy or become a teacher can be improved by introducing an understanding of the role of local food production. Her belief is that the health of the soil is later reflected in the nutritional value of the food we eat – the health of the cows that graze on the grains grown in a balanced soil later determines the quality of the beef that we consume and therefore impacts our own health.

Her vision is a bold one. Just as the livestock and soil all have roles vital to the farm system, she sees us as consumers also being part of that system. Her first farm event, “A Midsummer’s Feast” (for information and reservations see <http://bfgmidsummers.eventbrite.com>) is planned for June 29, when Ms. Johnson hosts the first in a series of farm-to-table dinners. It just might be a night in paradise! □

Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



May 20: With all three members present the Board announced it had reorganized at an executive session on May 15 and elected Nat Yohalem the new chairman. Mr. Yohalem then introduced Michelle Shalaby and welcomed her to the Board. Ms. Shalaby defeated incumbent Selectman Larry Davis in the recent town elections. **Mr. Yohalem thanked Mr. Davis for his years of service not only as selectman but also as the Town's tree warden.** "He did a wonderful job for many, many years. All of us owe Larry a big thank you." Mr. Davis has been succeeded as tree warden by former Highway Superintendent Peter Marks.

At Chairman Yohalem's suggestion, **the Board agreed to schedule a Saturday meeting later in the summer** to give second homeowners as well as year round residents an opportunity to meet Selectman Shalaby and "to come and ask questions, air complaints, and gather information about the town." That meeting was set for Saturday, July 20, at 10:00 a.m.

The Board held a special permit hearing for Southfield resident and Whip Shop owner Ned Odegaard. A year ago Mr. Odegaard received a special permit to put a woodshop in the former Buggy Whip building, and now he is requesting a special permit for a change in use to allow a portion of the woodshop to be converted into a studio/office space at one end and to create a retail space at the other end, to be occupied by Farm Country Soup, which will have a self-service retail-only store there. He said he also wanted to take the opportunity to preview for the Board a broader plan for the building, which he believes will ultimately make it financially self-sustaining.

Part of that plan involves making the building smaller by demolishing the original section of the Buggy Whip, which is on the far left side of the building as it faces Norfolk Road across from the firehouse. "That's the portion of the building that's in the most difficult condition," he explained. The remainder of the building would be converted over time into office or studio space for rental purposes. He said he currently has about a dozen tenants and that he believes there is demand for the kind of light, airy space that the building offers. However, the special permit application does not cover either the demolition work or the larger conversion plan, only the change in use of the two spaces at either end of the woodshop. And with that the Board approved the special permit by unanimous roll call vote.

The Board approved a motion to increase Chuck Loring's stipend as interim fire chief to the rate of \$10,000 a year, retroactive to May 1. As previously reported, Mr. Loring was appointed interim chief until

June 30, from his position as the deputy chief, which carries a \$2,000 stipend. Half of the chief's \$10,000 stipend is for doing fire inspections, the fees for which are remitted to the Town. During his interview for the interim chief's position, Mr. Loring raised a concern about doing the inspections, which he said can be time-consuming and typically have to be done during the working day. However, he has agreed to do them, and thus will receive the full amount of the chief's stipend pro-rated over the two months he'll be interim chief.

Administrative Assistant **Mike Skorput updated the Board on the status of the Hatchery Road repair reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.** This was in response to a question raised at the recent Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Skorput said that after checking the Town's bank records it turns out the \$112,000 reimbursement had in fact been received, but it had been incorrectly listed as being "in lieu of taxes."

The Board discussed scheduling a Special Town Meeting to try once again to obtain funding approval to replace the Clayton Mill River Road bridge, but decided to wait until they hear something official from the commonwealth about the status of the bridge. Unofficially, the Town has already learned that it will need to reduce the bridge to a single lane and install guardrails as soon as possible. Finally, Superintendent Marks reminded the Board that environmental permits will be needed for the Norfolk Road bridge since the work to restore the concrete abutments will have to be carried out in the bed of the Whiting River.

A motion was made and approved to move forward with a purchase order for \$113,357 for a new dump truck and plow that had previously been approved by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting. In addition, Administrative Assistant Mr. Skorput said he is currently working on a bid contract with construction equipment dealer C. N. Wood for a new Komatsu front-end loader, also approved at the annual meeting. The purchase price, including a trade-in allowance for the old loader, is \$85,000.

June 3: With all three members in attendance, Chairman Yohalem described what he referred to as a **new internal policy for the Board in which individual board members will be assigned oversight responsibility for specific Town projects.** As an example, he said Selectman Shalaby will be "the go-to person" for the Clayton Mill River Road bridge project. "She lives right nearby, and if there's something Tara [White] or I need to know about

it, she can notify us, and make recommendations and answer questions at Board meetings." He said he will be doing the same for the Canaan Southfield Road bridge project, while Selectman White will keep current on the Norfolk Road and Campbell Falls bridge work. "Then, as other items come up on the agenda, we'll have one or another of us be the point person on those as well. In this way we can alleviate some of the burden on the Town Hall staff and get the selectmen more deeply involved in Town projects," he concluded.

The Board received a letter last week from Great Barrington attorney Edward McCormick, along with another letter requesting that the first letter be opened in executive session. In an effort to comply, the Board scheduled an executive session meeting for Friday, June 7.

Chairman Yohalem also announced that **an offer had been made and verbally accepted by Chuck Loring to be the Town's next highway superintendent.** He said Mr. Loring has agreed the terms of the job, which will be incorporated into a formal contract, and that his first day will be Monday, June 10.

Board Secretary Nicole Reid said that the engineering and design work for the Canaan Southfield Road bridge replacement is about 75 percent complete and the full design will be submitted to the state for review in about two weeks, adding that a bid package should be ready to go out to contractors by the end of June.

The Board then convened a special permit hearing to consider a petition from Willow Creek Partners LLC, owner of Mepal Manor, and Mepal Manor LLC, the prospective purchaser of the property, to modify two previous special permits granted to the inn and spa in 2000 and 2012. There were three parts to the petition. The first would restore the parcel size to the full 187.6 acres, a change from the previously permitted 40.4 acres; the second would increase the number of guest rooms to thirteen from twelve in order to provide one guest room with handicapped access on the ground floor, and the third would allow the use of the inn as a retreat for adult clients with substance abuse issues. **If the sale goes**

through, Mepal Manor will be owned and operated by The Center for Motivation and Change (CMC), which runs a private outpatient addiction program in New York City. CMC would operate the inn as an in-patient facility where clients would receive the same kind of treatment the Center has been providing to its out-patients for the past ten years in New York City. The CMC presenters, led by Lenox attorney Philip Heller, emphasized that the new use for the property would, if anything, decrease the intensity with which the property is being used today. As Heller noted, there will be no change in the footprint of any of the buildings; there will be no weddings, receptions or parties, and no public use of the dining room, gymnasium, or spa. The patients/guests will be picked up and delivered to the inn so that traffic in and out of the property will be kept to a minimum. Although no abutters were present, Jamie Mullen, head of the New Marlborough Planning Board but speaking as a private citizen, expressed his support for the project. The Board approved the special permit by unanimous roll call vote.

The Board then went back into regular session to hear a **request from Animal Inspector Prudence Spaulding for a leash law for dogs.** Administrative Assistant Skorput told her the Board is already considering an animal bylaw that would include a leash law.

Finally, the Board heard from **Emergency Management Director Barbara Marchione** who expressed her concern that **grant monies due the Town are not being properly accounted for.** "We have this happen over and over with money that's supposed to be coming in," she said, and suggested setting up a monthly or bimonthly grant review meeting. Chairman Yohalem agreed to add a quarterly grant report to the Board's agenda.

Ms. Marchione also expressed her concern that Tier 2 reporting requirements for hazardous materials as specified by the Environment Protection Agency were not being met by local businesses and other entities in the town, possibly including the school system. She said **there are some 30,000 chemicals on the EPA's list that**

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Board of Selectmen, continued from page 5

have to be accounted for annually, but that up to now the law has not been enforced. She said she wants to schedule an information meeting at the Town Hall to raise awareness of the requirements.

June 10: All three Selectmen were present as Chairman Yohalem noted the Town has received two applications from town residents for the emergency management director's position. They are Michael Britton and Ed Harvey. In addition, the current director, Barbara Marchione, indicated she would like to continue in the role. Mr. Yohalem indicated the Board intends to interview the candidates before making a decision.

The Town has been informed by a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation that it will only be getting half its Chapter 90 road repair funds, or roughly \$259,000. The letter went on to say that, depending on the disposition of the state's Transportation Finance Plan it may be possible to release additional Chapter 90 funding later in the 2014 fiscal year in time for the fall or early spring construction seasons.

Mr. Yohalem said the Board met in executive session with Police Chief Scott Farrell just prior to tonight's meeting to discuss the investigation into the disappearance of confidential files from the fire chief's office. These include department personnel records, maintenance records for the fire trucks, and fire inspection files. The disappearance was discovered not long after former Chief Peter Scala abruptly retired from the department. The Board refused to reveal any details of the ongoing investigation.

Mr. Yohalem said the Board also discussed with Chief

Farrell in the same executive session the letter sent by Great Barrington attorney Edward McCormack (see Selectmen report for June 3 above), but declined to release any details other than to say it was referring the letter to Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard and would be meeting with him to discuss it on Friday, June 14. Chairman Yohalem indicated later in the meeting that because of the number of legal issues facing the Town right now, the Board has asked town resident and former litigator Owen Hoberman "to be available without fee to consult with the selectmen on some of these issues," adding that Mr. Hoberman has acted in this capacity in the past on behalf of the Town.

The Board began its annual review and approval of Town officer appointments for the fiscal year beginning July 1. In all cases, these were actually reappointments, since the office holders in question had indicated to the Board they would be willing to serve again. These included members of the Conservation and Historical Commissions, the Board of Appeals, the Umpachene Park Commission, the building

and wiring inspectors, the accounting officer and the Council on Aging. Two appointments, the fire chief and emergency management director, were put on hold. The board said it has an interview scheduled with interim chief Chuck Loring for the fire chief's position on Monday, June 17, and that there are three candidates, including the incumbent, applying for the emergency management director position. The Board also wanted to make town residents aware that there are quite a few vacancies on Town commissions and committees, including four on the Conservation Commission, two on the Umpachene Park Commission, two on the Technology Committee, and the

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of the Board of Selectmen
on July 20, at 10 a.m.
in the Town Hall.**

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air complaints, and meet the
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**The Board will also be holding
a meeting at the
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July 29, at 6:30 p.m.**

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position of Wired West alternate delegate is vacant.

Selectman White reported that she attended a meeting on hazardous mitigation funding at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, or MEMA, headquarters in Agawam. She said **there is a nationwide pool of \$9 million in funding available for hazardous mitigation projects and that she thought there is a possibility the Norfolk Road bridge project might qualify for such funding.** With that in mind, she said she has invited Dan Nietsche, the MEMA grant coordinator, to come to New Marlborough for a site visit and that she and Board Secretary Nicole Reid would be putting together a grant application in time for the August 30 submission deadline. The Norfolk Road bridge repairs are estimated at \$30,000.

The Board received an update from Selectman Shalaby on the Reverse 911 program being developed by Blackboard Connect, a Washington, D.C. education technology company. As reported earlier, the service can be used to alert town residents to weather, fire or police emergencies, road closures, and health advisories, or even non-emergency information. As Selectman Shalaby explained, **residents who have listed landlines will automatically be enrolled in the program to receive the emergency notifications, but people with cell phones or unlisted numbers have to register them with the Town so those numbers can be added to the system.** She said a notice is being prepared to go with the third-quarter tax bills and posted in all the regular places, such as the Mill River General Store, the Library, and the Town Hall. Email addresses can also be added to the system.

The Board reviewed plans for the detour that will be put in place when the Canaan Southfield Road bridge is closed. Currently, the bridge is down to one lane, but once a contractor has been selected the bridge will be completely closed to traffic for an unspecified period of time. The detour, which the selectmen approved, will route traffic traveling north on the Canaan Southfield Road onto Lumbert Cross Road and from there up Collins Hill on the Mill River Southfield Road towards

the Norfolk Road intersection. From there, traffic will turn right to go into Southfield. The detour adds 3.7 miles, or an estimated 10 minutes, to the trip. The bid package is expected to be ready to go out to contractors by the end of June, and this, Mr. Yohalem said, probably means that the bids won't come in until sometime in July and that work won't start until the end of July or the beginning of August at the earliest. The Board is concerned that the bridge will likely be closed through the winter, and this will present plowing problems for the Highway Department, since there is no suitable place for a snow plow coming south on Canaan Southfield Road to turn around as it approaches the bridge. Consequently, the Board discussed including an incentive payment option in the bid package for completing the bridge in its entirety before the onset of winter.

June 17: All three members were present for the first order of business, to consider a recommendation from Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring to appoint Paul Krom as Highway Department foreman. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

As discussed at an earlier meeting, **the Board approved a new structure for fire department inspection fees.** The goal was to keep them as uniform as possible. The new fees, which are effective immediately, are as follow:

- Smoke and carbon monoxide detector inspections will remain at \$50
- Business inspections will increase from \$35 to \$50
- In-ground tank removal inspections will increase from \$50 to \$100
- A furnace with an oil tank will increase from \$35 to \$50
- An oil tank by itself will increase from \$25 to \$50 as will a liquid propane tank inspection
- A certificate of occupancy, a new fee, is \$50

The per-hour-charge for miscellaneous inspection work will remain at \$30 hour.

The Board announced that it will hold its July 29 meeting at the fire station at its regularly scheduled 6:30 p.m. time. As Chairman Yohalem explained, "It's

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Board of Selectmen, continued from page 7

an opportunity for the Board and the members of the fire company to become more familiar with each other, to get an idea of how we both function and see people face to face." The meeting will be open to the public.

The Board announced it had appointed Chuck Loring to the position of fire chief, subject to the signing of a written contract with a one-year term. Currently he is the interim chief. Mr. Loring then gave the Board a list of proposed Fire Department officers, as follows: David Smith, deputy chief; Bob Dvorchik, assistant chief; Dave Herrick, first captain, and Ed Harvey, second captain. The Board unanimously approved the recommended appointments.

In other Town officer appointments the Board named Ed Harvey as emergency management director, replacing Barbara Marchione. It also reappointed Roger Levine as solid waste coordinator, Scott McFarland as sanitary inspector, Christopher Hassett as the Town's representative to the Lake Buel Restoration Preservation District, and reappointed Robert Twing to the Umpachene Park Commission. The appointments are effective July 1.

In bridge developments, the Board received official word from the state that the Clayton Mill River Road bridge is structurally unsound. It has already been reduced to a single lane and guardrails have been put in place, and Chairman Yohalem said the state engineer advised him that the bridge should be replaced rather than repaired. In a related development, Highway Superintendent Loring learned from Foresight Land Services engineer Steve Mack, who has been advising the Board on the project, that if the bridge is replaced with a similar sized structure, the project could be brought in for less than the \$450,000 originally estimated, and he said he would get back to Superintendent Loring with an estimate of how much less.

Continuing with bridge woes, the Town has been talking to state officials about borrowing a prefabricated bridge to temporarily replace the ailing Campbell Falls bridge. However, the state engineer is now thinking the Town might be able to repair the bridge rather than replace it for less than the \$175,000 it would cost to engineer and install a prefabricated bridge, but he was reluctant to give the Town a final opinion and instead has forwarded the inspection report to another division of the state for confirmation. Currently, the bridge is on the state's so-called accelerated bridge replacement list, but according to the latest state estimate it wouldn't be until 2020 that state funding would be available to replace it.

The Board approved a motion to join the Community Choice Power Supply Program, which will provide town residents with the choice of buying electricity at a negotiated fixed rate from Colonial Power Group or continuing to buy it at fluctuating rates from their local utility, which in most cases is National Grid. In either

case, the power will continue to be delivered and billed for by the local utility. The Community Choice program was set up in conjunction with the state's Department of Energy Resources and allows towns or groups of towns to combine the purchasing power of their residents to seek a lower rate than they otherwise would get from their local utility. Colonial will shortly be sending a letter to residents explaining how the program works.

Jan Johnson, who bought the property previously owned by Herb and Betsy Abelow on Brewer Hill Road and is raising livestock and growing fruits and vegetables there, appeared before the Board to get its approval for a series of three to four ticketed farm dinners to be held on the property, which she has renamed Mill River Farm. The dinners, as she noted in a written statement to the Board, will be part of a marketing effort to introduce the farm to "food aficionados and jumpstart sales of its farm products." Tickets will sell for \$145 each, with 10 percent of the profits going to farm-related charities. The first dinner is targeted for Saturday, June 29. The Board, which was supportive of the effort, raised two possible concerns regarding the dinners. One was whether the serving of complementary wine would require a liquor license, and the other was whether the dinners themselves could be considered an ancillary activity of the farming, in which case they would be covered by the Right to Farm Bylaw. The Board said it would refer both questions to Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard.

In response to a letter from John Schreiber of the Historical Society, the Board gave its approval to the Society to proceed with its restoration of the New Marlborough Village Cemetery on Branch Road. The first portion of the work is scheduled to begin on August 18 and last eight days. In his letter, Dr. Schreiber said the Society has raised enough money privately to begin the restoration work of a section of the cemetery which, as he pointed out, is one of the oldest in Berkshire County, to serve as a demonstration project. The goal is to "learn the skill of cemetery preservation and to generate interest so that larger donations can be obtained to restore the rest of the cemetery."

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The Board received another letter from the Khans of Cagney Hill Road saying that despite earlier work by the Highway Department to alleviate the condition, there is still an overflow of water draining down from the public roadway and flooding the front of their property. The letter goes on to propose a solution involving the extension of an existing drainage trench and the installation of a drainpipe under their driveway. Mr. Yohalem referred the letter to the Highway Superintendent for evaluation.

The Board said it received a letter from the state Fire Marshall regarding an allegation by former Fire Chief Peter Scala that the Board issued liquor licenses to town establishments without first obtaining a valid Certificate of Inspection signed by the fire chief. The fire marshall's letter concluded by saying that the Board

should regard the letter as a "friendly reminder" that Certificates of Inspection must be signed by both "the building inspector and the head of the fire department prior to the issuing of any liquor licenses." As previously reported, it has been the Board's position all along that, based on assurances from the building inspector, the establishments in question were actually in compliance and only lacked certain paperwork. So the Board signed off on temporary permits. (See the May issue of NM5VN, "Why the Fire Chief Stepped Down.") Nevertheless, Mr. Yohalem said, "from now on our policy is going to be that we are not going to sign any permits until we have a document signed by both the building inspector and the fire chief attesting to the fact that everything has been done, including all the paperwork." □

Peter Schuyten

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 28: All three Commission members - John Weinstein, Ned Wilson and Peter Marks - were present to address the month's agenda. The minutes for the April meeting were approved with slight amendments.

The first order of new business was Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering on behalf of resident Stanley Rossier of 222/224/226 Lake Road. Ms. Boomsma explained that the Notice of Intent (NOI) was for work involving a septic upgrade, stair replacement, and a path relocation. The owner wants to sell a portion of his property and to install a separate septic system on that portion. The Commission noted that they had received an email from an abutter supporting the project. The Commission voted to approve the application with the condition that construction documents be submitted to supplement the application.

Next, Peter Hagen representing the Lake Buel Restoration/Preservation District presented an NOI for work to maintain the outlet at Lake Buel. Mr. Hagen explained that a ten-day beaver trapping permit from the Board of Health had been granted to the District. Since no file number had been received from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the hearing would be continued until next meeting when protocol could be met.

The final hearing was for a Request For Determination (RDA) from contractor Mike White for property at 120 Norfolk Road owned by James Stevens. The work to be permitted was for the repair and replacement of sills to a barn. After a brief discussion and reference to the site visit, the Commission voted to issue a negative determination even though the barn is within the fifty-foot setback to the river, meaning that, even though the work is within an area subject to the Wetlands Act, the work will not fill, dredge, or alter that area.

Finally the Commission moved on to new business. The Commission voted on and issued a Certificate of Compliance for work permitted in an NOI in 1998 to Stanley Rossier for property at 222/224/226 Lake Road.

Member Peter Marks said he had received an inquiry from Paul Levin of Rhoades and Bailey Road about putting in a new lawn in a swampy area on his property. The Commission advised that he submit an RDA.

Member John Weinstein said he had received a call from resident Donna Weaver wondering if the Commission would evaluate a property she is considering purchasing for wetlands concerns. The Commission agreed to advise her to contact a wetlands specialist.

Lastly the mail was reviewed. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife sent notice that the certification for vernal pools is being amended. The Special Permit from Willow Creek Partners was received. Notice was given that the Ashburnham Conservation Trust is to hold an Open Space Conference on June 8. □

*Martha Bryan, from minutes
by Secretary Kathy Chretien*

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PLANNING BOARD

On Tuesday, May 28, the Planning Board convened a public hearing on the proposed Protective Bylaw revision for the creation of two types of zoning, one for the rural areas of New Marlborough, and another for the village centers. Thirty-one citizens joined Planning Board Chairman Jamie Mullen and members Patricia Hardyman, Holly Morse, Charlie Parton, and Judy Hattendorf.

The meeting consisted of a well organized single hour, introduced by Mullen, Hattendorf, and Hardyman, who quickly summarized the process that had brought the Planning Board to this point: the research done on the historic patterns of development around the five villages of our township; the determination from the Board of Assessors that assessment rates would not be effected by the zoning changes; the understanding that there would be no impact on septic systems, which would still remain under the purview of the Board of Health; and the expansion of by-right uses in the village districts, for example retail businesses with a 2,000 square foot cap, with larger spaces requiring a Special Permit via the Board of Selectmen.

After these introductory remarks, the floor was opened to questions. A lively dialogue ensued between individuals in the audience and the various members of the Planning Board. In answer to a question posed by Tim Newman about combined commercial and residential buildings, the Planning Board stated that a living space above a 2,000 square foot store would be allowed. Mark Carson wondered about how the Town might decide if one man's antique store turns out to be another man's eyesore. A question was raised about the possible establishment of dog kennels within the village zones. The answer to this, according to Patricia Hardyman, lay in the existing Protective Bylaws, which restrict the size of kennels to three dogs. A number of questions came up from



photo by Larry Burke

Planning Board members (l. to r.) Holly Morse, Jamie Mullen, Judy Hattendorf, and Patricia Hardyman fielded a wide range of questions during the course of the public hearing for the proposed bylaw revision.

citizens concerned that existing uses of property might be impinged upon, but the members of the Planning Board reminded the assembly that pre-existing uses are "grandfathered," or allowed.

The question and answer period having run its course in remarkably amicable and informative fashion, Chairman Mullen then reviewed the next steps before the Proposed Revisions will come to a vote. Once a date has been set for the next Special Town Meeting, notice will be made using the channels of public postings, local newspaper notice, the town website, and Maggie's List. It was recommended by Prudence Spaulding, of The Finance Committee, that since this is such an important matter, the Planning Board consider sending a postcard to all residents, in advance, so that everyone is informed of the date for a vote. With that suggestion made, the evening came to a close. □

Larry Burke



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A Photographic Essay by Al Lenardson



AT CROSS PURPOSES

How To Fund Bridge Repair Remains a Challenge

by Joe Poindexter

New Marlborough residents seem to be of two minds about their bridges. On May 13, as reported in the June issue of the *5 Village News*, voters made it possible for the Town to borrow \$680,000 for bridge repair by approving a measure to put such borrowings outside the 2-1/2 percent increase in the levy limit. At the Annual Town Meeting a week earlier, however, they nixed the borrowing itself.

So what gives? The main argument against raising money to fix our bridges is that, if we wait long enough, the state will fix them. This is technically true – except that from the state's point of view, not all of our bridges are bridges. A bridge has to span at least twenty feet to qualify for state or federal funding.

Three do not. The sought-after loan was mostly earmarked for the culvert crossing of Brewer Brook on the Clayton Mill River Road. In a report received June 13, state bridge inspectors declared that while the substructure of the culvert was "fair," the superstructure was in "serious" condition. This was not news to the Board of Selectmen, which, acting on a preliminary report, had a guardrail installed and the crossing narrowed to a lane. Once the Board receives a firm estimate of the replacement cost of the culvert – repairing it was deemed penny-wise, pound-foolish – it will consider calling for a Special Town Meeting to revisit the question of borrowing. As in the original request, two-thirds of the voters present would have to approve the appropriation.

Repair of the culvert on Norfolk Road would also have to be appropriated, but its cost is a relatively manageable \$30,000. The third project, the culvert on the Canaan Southfield Road near Foley Road, managed to escape voter approval. Its repair will be paid for with a \$500,000 grant from MassWorks, an appropriations program created last August. New Marlborough was only one

of two Berkshire County towns (the other was North Adams) to receive funds in the latest round of awards.

In mid-June, BSC Group, the engineer hired by the Town to guide the repair of the Clayton Mill River culvert, submitted a plan to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. Review typically takes six weeks or more, but BSC project manager Tom Loughlin is confident the process will be expedited. "The state wants to see this project go forward," he told New Marlborough's Assistant Secretary Nicole Reid. Ms. Reid hoped the bid would go out before the end of June. Still, it could be touch and go. The bidding period for an approved plan is thirty days, and any work in a waterway must be undertaken during the so-called low-flow period of July to October. The grant money has to be spent by next August.

That leaves the Town's five bridges. Yes, the state will fix them, but don't applaud just yet. A memo to Ms. Reid from MassDOT District Bridge Engineer Mark DeVlyder confirms the schedule of repairs identified by Selectman Nat Yohalem at the Annual Town Meeting: The Umpachene River Road and Hadsell Street bridges, 2017; Southfield bridge, 2018; Campbell Falls bridge, 2020, and the Canaan Southfield Road bridge over the Umpachene River, 2022. And then we'll be done? Well, maybe. "The list and dates are not cast in stone and subject to change," writes Mr. DeVlyder. □

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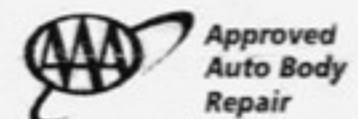
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FIRE AND RESCUE

May 1	12:45 a.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call	May 21	7:35 p.m.	Leffingwell Road Medical Call
May 1	1:15 p.m.	Downs Road Medical Call	May 22	4:55 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
May 2	7:20 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call	May 22	9:46 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Kitchen Fire
May 4	2:00 p.m.	South Sandisfield Road Brush Fire	May 24	12:51 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call
May 6	3:26 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call	May 24	5:00 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
May 6	6:00 p.m.	Norfolk Road CO Call	May 25	3:45 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
May 15	9:08 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm	May 27	11:39 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Fire Alarm
May 16	1:50 a.m.	Sisson Hill Road Medical Call	May 29	9:10 p.m.	Hadsell Street Fire Alarm
May 16	7:50 a.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call	May 29	11:02 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Norfolk MVA
May 16	3:00 p.m.	Mutual Aid – Stand by for Canaan Structure Fire	May 30	3:15 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Fire Alarm
May 19	7:56 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call	May 30	5:19 p.m.	Hillingdon Road Fire Alarm
May 21	7:15 a.m.	Church Road Medical Call			

The Friends of the New Marlborough Library

will be collecting books for their annual **BOOK SALE**

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July 13, July 20 and July 27
from 10am -12:00pm
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No magazines, text books, encyclopedias or books in poor condition.

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Neighbors



This was a casualty in Joyce and Tom Weeks' driveway in Southfield during the violent storm that ripped through New Marlborough on May 29. Dubbed "the polite tree" by the Weeks, it managed to miss power lines, other trees, and their van. It was so polite, in fact, that neither they nor their dog heard it fall. There was a similar politeness at the corner of East Hill and Norfolk Roads, where half of the large corner tree in Brian Hadley's yard came down quietly, also sparing power lines and vehicles.



photo by Joyce Weeks

On June 8, Owen Poindexter, a writer and son of East Hill residents Holly and Joe Poindexter, was married to attorney Rachel Terp (at right, at a brunch the morning after the ceremony). They are living in Berkeley, California, where Rachel practices law and Owen writes for a web-based news organization.



photo by Joe Poindexter

"When we retire, we're going to visit national parks," vowed Louise and Nat Yohalem of Mill River. And they did, in 2008: seven weeks, fifteen parks, and 9,000 miles. At the conclusion of that trip, they tallied the states they had visited together over the years at forty-one, leading to a new goal: visit the remaining nine states. In 2010, they visited the "lesser seven." In May, the forty-ninth state, Alaska, became their forty-ninth state. Next winter they hope to visit the (and their) fiftieth, Hawaii.



photo by Barbara Lowman

Sad news of Sam Farber was received from his wife, Betsey: "As some of you may have heard, Sam Farber died unexpectedly on Sunday morning (June 16). He had a fall on our way to a wedding. He struck his head and was soon gone. We are all shocked and saddened, but grateful for him for a quick death...He was a special person, and we will all miss him." Sam Farber was 88.

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

FIFTH ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR

The New Marlborough Cultural Council is sponsoring this year's Garden Tour on Saturday, July 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Five gardens around New Marlborough have been selected, and provide a broad variety of color and texture in plantings, rock walls, ponds, sculpture, and views.

Tickets are available at the Mill River General Store at a cost of \$10 per person. The "ticket" includes a description of each garden and a map showing its location. Tickets are also available by mail. Send a check for the required number of tickets to the New Marlborough Cultural Council, P.O. Box 206, Mill River, MA, 01244, and the tickets will be mailed to you.



The Garden Tour is a rain-or-shine event. While most gardens are equally beautiful in a light rain, the Council hopes that this will be the fifth straight year of sunny weather.

Barbara Lowman

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On May 22, **Chuck Liebowitz**, of Southfield, writes: The **bear** opened my deck box to get a tarp – and it wasn't raining all that hard either (see right).



photos by Chuck Liebowitz

photo by Don Beauchamp



On June 8, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, writes: The **bluebirds** came back to their house across the street after the tree swallows left. I haven't been able to catch sight of the babies yet, or maybe they fledged and flew off already. I also saw a **common yellow-throated warbler**, first over by the Ashley house, then out back here across the river. The **red-bellied woodpecker** comes all the time to the grape jelly feeder I have set out for the oriole.

photo by Kristin Homeyer



On June 13, **Kristin Homeyer**, of Hartsville, writes: This family of **turkeys** – the chicks are so small they are hard to see in the grass – is living along Arroyo Way in Hartsville, where my kids and I have been observing them every day for the past week! It is difficult to count the chicks as they scurry around in the tall grass, but I believe there are as many as eighteen of them! We look forward to watching the young turkeys grow and enjoy having them in our neighborhood.

On June 13, **Ed Harvey**, of Mill River, writes: On May 28, I found this family of **woodchucks** living under my garage – they are out in the rain as I write. Two days later I spotted this **great blue heron** at Ormsbee's Pond and the **beaver** at Thousand Acre outlet swamp. Then on June 5, I caught this **turkey** near Old County Road. Robert Miller was driving by when I was shooting this tom and wanted to make sure it got into the NM5VN.



photo by EdHarvey

photos by Ed Harvey



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COUNCIL ON AGING BEGINS LUNCHESES

Council on Aging potluck luncheons were held in the Clayton Church Hall on Thursday, April 25, May 30, and June 27. More potluck lunches are scheduled for the last Thursday of each month at noon, at the same church hall.

On April 25, Kathleen Floyd (family nurse practitioner) from the Community Health Program stopped by to visit and provide information about a new service offered throughout Berkshire County. The Community Health Program is "going mobile," traveling in a health van. It will offer routine checkups, sick visits, physicals, and follow-up care for those with chronic illnesses. It will offer free screenings of cholesterol and blood pressure, assistance with SNAP (formerly food stamps), and will help with access to health insurance and the WIC program. All medical insurances are accepted. To schedule appointments, a telephone call is required: 413-328-8580. The health van will be at Town Hall in Mill River on July 25, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Now that the weather is warmer, the Council on Aging hopes that New Marlborough seniors will come to these luncheons, bringing their delicious "pots," and enjoy the



Attendees at the first senior potluck luncheon received program information from Kathleen Floyd of the Community Health Program.

fellowship of a lovely potluck luncheon. Upcoming dates are July 25 and August 29. □

Prudence Spaulding

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Dragonfly Larva on Leaf, 2011 by Jose Delgado

SCIENCE MEETS ART

Flying Cloud Institute

Science Meets Art: A Student Show

Gallery Hours:
 July 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 • 11am-5pm

Opening Celebration July 12, 4:00pm
Gallery Talk July 19 at 3:30pm

New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery
 (Rte 57 next to The Old Inn on the Green)

Visual METAPHORS

A SHOW OF PAINTINGS, SCULPTURE, PHOTOGRAPHY AND MIXED MEDIA

July 26 thru August 25

Opening on Friday, July 26, 5 to 7 PM

Gallery Days are Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays 11AM to 4PM

At the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery On Rt 57 New Marlborough, MA

Presented by The New Marlborough Village Association

- PARTICIPATING ARTISTS**
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 - Lee Backer
 - Peter Barrett
 - Diane Barth
 - Eugene Cleary
 - Cookie Coyne
 - Robin Crofut-Brittingham
 - Maria Gay
 - Ann Getsinger
 - Nancy Goldberger
 - Pat Hogan
 - Richard Kimball
 - Ben Krupka
 - Elizabeth Lombardi
 - Holly McNeely
 - Jane McWhorter
 - Gwen Melvin
 - Brian Mikesell
 - Ellen Murtaugh
 - John Potoski
 - Shellie Schneider
 - Lucinda Shmulsky
 - Larry Silk
 - Walter Simons
 - Timothy Sleeper
 - Abbe Stahl Steinglass
 - Patrick Stolfo
 - Olga Schwede
 - Robin Tost
 - Barbara Winters
 - Terry Wise

New Marlborough



Saturday, July 20

10 am – 4 pm

Rain or Shine

\$10 per person

Purchase tickets at the Mill River General Store or send a check for the required number of tickets to the New Marlborough Cultural Council, P.O. Box 206, Mill River, MA 01244 to have tickets mailed directly to you.

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Aug 3 Xuerong Zhao, piano
Beethoven, Mussorgsky, Prokofiev



Aug 10 J.S. Bach: The Art of the Fugue

Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm
Bach's great contrapuntal cycle in a new orchestration for strings, winds and harpsichord by Daniel Stepner



Aug 24 Daedalus Quartet

Erwin Schulhoff, Beethoven, Schubert, Smetana



Aug 31 Shall We Gather at the River: Music of Charles Ives

Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm
Songs, Violin Sonata #3, Decoration Day, Emerson Transcriptions for piano. Deborah Rentz-Moore, mezzo soprano, Daniel Berman, piano and Daniel Stepner, violin



Sept 7 License My Roving Hands

Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm
Letters, Lyrics and Music from Geoffrey Chaucer to John Donne. Actor Jonathan Epstein with Calliope, A Renaissance Band



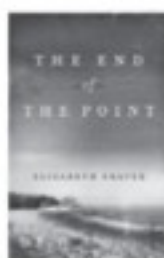
Sept 21 The Apollo Trio

Mozart, Rachmaninov and Schubert's monumental Trio in E^b major, Op. 100, (D. 929)



Sept 28 Anything Goes!

Karen Akers sings Cole Porter with Don Rebic, piano



Oct 5 Award-Winning Authors

Host Mitchel Levitas of the *NY Times* with Elizabeth Graver, Robert K. Massie and Katherine Hall Page

Receptions with the artists after the performances • Art Gallery Shows through Sept. 28

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UPCOMING: Event Calendar for July and August

July 14: The Robert Joffe Nature Preserve Dedication, 12:00 noon at the corner of Cagney Hill and Canaan Southfield Roads, and the unveiling of a new, half-mile trail that meanders through the preserve; free to the public and bring the kids; lemonade and cookies will be served.

July 19: New Marlborough Historical Society Annual Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Meeting House Gallery, New Marlborough Village Green; current and prospective members welcome; refreshments will be served following the meeting.

July 20: Garden Tour, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., sponsored by Cultural Council; tickets (\$10) available at Mill River Store or by mail (see page 17).

July 25: Senior Potluck Luncheon, 12:00 noon, Clayton Church Fellowship Hall, hosted by the New Marlborough Council on Aging.

July 25: The Health Van, provided by the Community Health Program, will be at Town Hall, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 413-328-8580.

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

August 3: Award-winning pianist Xuerong Zhao performs Prokofiev, Beethoven, and Mussorgsky, 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House; tickets are \$15; \$10 for members of the New Marlborough Village Association. Reserve by email at tickets@newmarlborough.org, or (413) 229-2785.

August 10: The Art of the Fugue, J.S. Bach's great contrapuntal cycle performed on baroque instruments, 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House; pre-concert talk at 3:30 p.m. \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

August 17: Elihu Burritt Day, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on the Village Green in New Marlborough, sponsored by the Cultural Council

August 17: Annual Pig Roast 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Fire House in Southfield; music and dancing from 7:00 on; tickets available at Mill River General Store; sponsored by New Marlborough Fire Department.

August 24: The Daedalus Quartet performs string quartets by Schulhoff, Beethoven, Schubert, and Smetana; 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House; \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

August 29: Senior Potluck Luncheon: 12:00 noon, Clayton Church Fellowship Hall, hosted by the New Marlborough Council on Aging.

Aug. 31: Shall We Gather at the River? a sampling of Connecticut Yankee composer Charles Ives' rich repertoire of vocal and instrumental works. Deborah Rentz-Moore, mezzo soprano; Donald Berman, piano; Daniel Stepner, violin; 4:00 p.m. at the Meeting House, pre-concert talk at 3:30 p.m. \$25; \$20 for NMVA members.

NOTICE

ANNUAL MEETING

New Marlborough Historical Society

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 6:00 P.M.

NEW MARLBOROUGH MEETING HOUSE GALLERY

NEW MARLBOROUGH VILLAGE GREEN



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JOHN MANIKOWSKI

John Manikowski, a resident of Mill River for the past forty years, died on June 9. John was many things: author, illustrator, painter, founding member of this newspaper, cook, restaurant owner, hunter, fisherman, gatherer of mushrooms, maker of the most extraordinary knives, observer of nature, teacher, devoted friend to many, many people, friend to me for more than thirty years. Over the course of those years I saw John confront with endless grace and good humor the repeated insults to his health, the most spectacular being an induced coma about a dozen years ago, following complications from a back surgery. John might not have survived, should not have survived, had it not been for the amazing support of his loving friends who circled the wagons around him and almost willed him to recover. Another way of viewing this episode would be that John pulled through this extraordinary ordeal because he himself had connected with people in such a strong way that they simply could not let him go. In the last year, John knew that his lungs were not capable of another recovery, and this time his friends again drew around him, not to will him to live on, but to let him go peacefully.

John loved good stories, and was quite the storyteller himself. On numerous Sunday mornings over the years I would stop in to say hi, get a perfectly brewed cup of coffee, and hear another tale of adventure, or misadventure, featuring John and his fishing buddies up north in Canada. Only in the last year or so did I realize an essential thing about John, something that goes hand-in-hand with being a fine storyteller, and that is that he, as much as being a good talker, was a great listener. I came to understand that he had stored away things I had told him over the years, things I had forgotten ever telling him – about my children, about Jane, about my own fishing misadventures – and he remembered all, and savored all. I think this quality of his, of really hearing people, is the reason so many of us in New Marlborough and beyond are lessened by his passing.

-Larry Burke

Marianne and I came to know John in the days when a group of us got together thirteen years ago to discuss starting a community newspaper, which came to be called *The New Marlborough 5 Village News*. Marianne recalls how very helpful John was with the layout of the first issue, providing guidance regarding space, type-face, and the overall look of a page. And, of course, he also contributed the beautiful drawing of the Umpachene Falls that has appeared on Page 1 of every issue since our inception. John was a man of many gifts: artist, chef, fisherman, knife-maker, and raconteur. He had a wild sense of humor – and a wry sense of his own worth. He loved animals, and humans, too – and had a wide circle of friends. We were glad to be included in that circle.

-Jon Swan

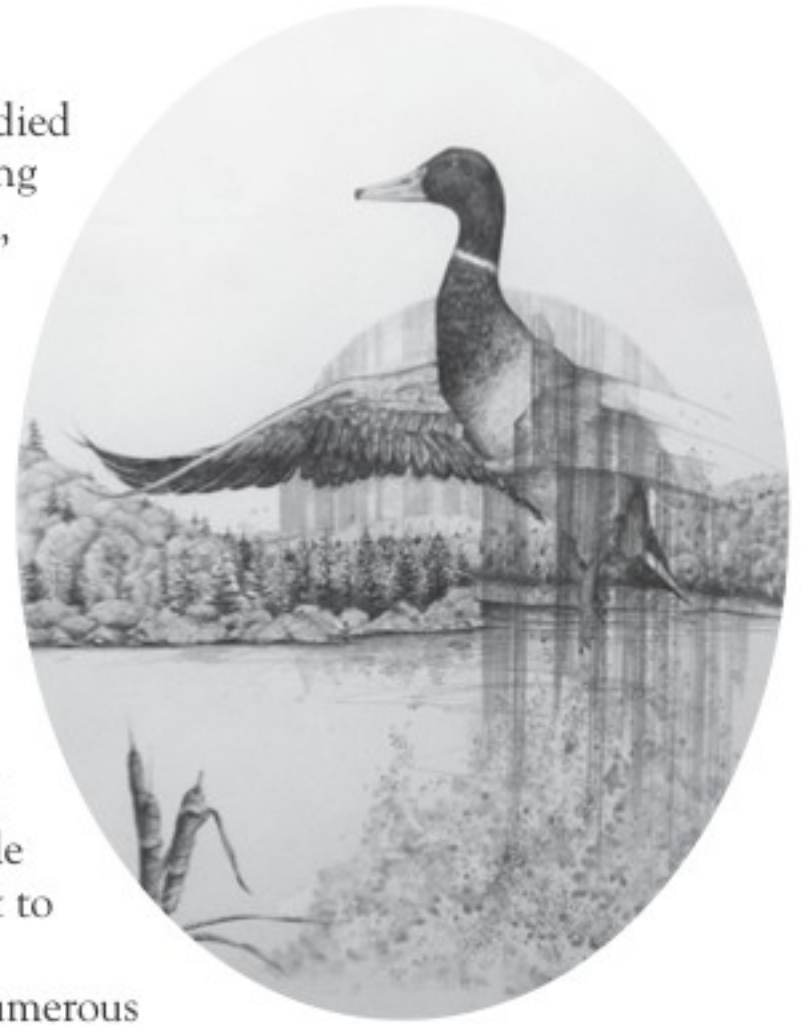
John was a patron of the New Marlborough Town Library for years. His choice of reading material was broad and eclectic. He and I would chat about the new bestsellers, the weather, what was going on in town, and I always appreciated his perspectives. An accomplished artist, he generously donated several of his watercolor paintings of birds to the library. As John's health declined, he found it more and more difficult to get to the library, and, independent soul that he was, he purchased a Kindle. On more than one occasion he called me for assistance, and I was happy to go over and help him set up his account and borrow books from our digital collection. On one of the days he called, a library patron had brought two pieces of carrot cake with cream cheese frosting for my husband and me. I took the cake over to John (so sorry, honey). He was delighted! We shared our cake, solved all the world's problems, and, almost as an afterthought, set up John's online subscription to *The Berkshire Eagle* on his Kindle. We have lost a valued friend, a true artist, author, and artisan, and we will miss him.

-Debbie O'Brien

I will always remember John coming to the store and asking what I had made for lunch that day. He liked pulled pork sandwiches, ribs, and goulash the most. When I or a member of my family shot a deer in deer season, we always gave him a venison steak and venison hamburger because he liked venison so much. He liked to talk about his fishing trips, and when he used to hunt, and what he cooked in his restaurant. We will miss him.

-Laura Davis

continued on page 20



John Manikowski, continued from page 19

I did not meet John in person until after I had seen his artwork in several Meeting House Gallery shows. I was always extremely impressed with his drawings, with the quality and detail of his work and the element of design. I didn't really connect with him until he started working with metal and knife-making. We talked about collaborating on making Mokume-Gane, a Japanese metal technique that required skill and equipment, and we hoped to join efforts in making the metal. We were never able to coordinate our efforts, but I could see that John proceeded to develop his skills with damascene and to conquer the use of a wide variety of materials in his knife-making. I remember visiting one of the gallery shows when John was gallery-sitting and watching him draw from imagination an incredible tree-trunk scene. He said he had no idea where he would go with it, but he thoroughly enjoyed the process.

He was such a quiet and gentle man, which seemed incongruous to the strength of his drawings. I was so happy to see the recent gallery retrospective of his work and never knew he worked in such a range of material and design. I realized what an incredible designer he was. He made a skiving knife for my bookbinding work and I cherish that piece of his work that I will always have. I will miss him greatly even though his presence was quiet and selective.

- Barbara Crocker

In life there are certain people that you connect with. Some people just have that comfortable fit. John Manikowski was one of those people for me, as I know he was for many others.

John was the kind of person who had many interests, a deep appreciation for things, especially things having to do with the infinite fabric of nature. He had a special ability to stop for a moment and take in what was around him: a tree, an interesting rock formation, the flow of a stream, the ways of wild animals -- many of which I have had the pleasure of hearing about in his stories and seeing in his artwork and other things that he created.

All of these things became clearer to me when John's work was put on display in a recent showing at the Meeting House Gallery. As I wandered around the room, my eye settled on a drawing of a stream surrounded by rock. As I looked closer it suddenly became clear to me that, in the foreground, was the very rock where I have stood countless times since I was a young boy, before diving into the lower pool at Umpachene falls.

Once again, he and I connected.

-Mike White

John's eye was as sharp as his beautiful knives. He saw what he saw; that is, his mind and his eye were one. And he had the skills to show us what so fully was before him.

I think of him spotting little fungi I had missed in the moss by the Konkapot. He would choose them and use them, slice them and dice them, measure them and treasure them.

Life was not wasted on John.

- Mary Richie Smith

Several years ago I met John Manikowski at the Paradise City Arts Festival in Northampton. If you've never had this kind of experience it may sound strange, but in the first moments that we spoke, I somehow knew he would have an impact on my life. John had a Minnesota naiveté that gave elegance to his inherent awkwardness, and after about an hour of talking about his knives we parted. As my time at the show was ending I happened to cross paths with John again. He looked me up and down and in his way of getting right to the point, he said, "After we talked I got to thinking, I could use some help around the shop." In the years since that first day, while traveling together around the east coast selling his wares, John became my teacher, mentor, and friend.

After delving deeply into countless forms of creative expression throughout his years, knife-making was John's last endeavor. There came a moment in the midst of our brief years of knowing one another when I realized that John was mentoring me during his life's final chapter. As a student, this understanding brought a great reverence for the opportunities to learn what John was offering constantly. As his health became a powerful impediment, John's resolve to be a knife-maker never wavered. My hands became vessels for his drive to create and express, and his work lived on even though he could no longer work in his shop or travel to exhibitions. The potency of John's spirit was never broken or compromised; even in his final days John insisted on talking about knife-making and artistic expression, not because it was a distraction from his reality but because the ongoing creativity of life itself and his means of expressing was his reality.

-Jason Szafranski

A memorial gathering for John is being scheduled for Saturday, August 3, at Umpachene Falls, time of day still to be determined. The following day will be the rain date. For further information, contact Carole Clark at carole.s.clark@hotmail.com. □

A NATURAL GEM

Dedicating the Robert Joffe Nature Preserve

The Robert Joffe Nature Preserve, a nine-acre tract located on Cagney Hill Road where it meets the Canaan Southfield Road, will be dedicated at noon, July 14. The preserve was made possible by a gift of land by Mr. Joffe, a long-time resident of Cagney Hill who died in January 2010, and generous donations from other New Marlborough residents. The public, and especially New Marlborough's younger citizens, are invited to attend. Cookies and lemonade will be served.

The newest acquisition of the New Marlborough Land Trust, the preserve features a nature walk designed, in effect, by the creatures that live there. Taking his cues from the pathways created by squirrels, raccoons, deer, beavers, and other animals, naturalist Jon Piasecki (a West Stockbridge resident with a degree in landscape architecture from Harvard University) has laid out a trail that instructs hikers on the flora and fauna for which the preserve is home.

The half-mile trail, covered by wood chips from local trees, meanders around a small pond. Signposts along the way will be keyed to a brochure (still in production) that will help visitors see the variety of natural life that abounds in the preserve and understand the changes that take place from season to season. Land Trust Co-President Richard Stebbins expects the trail to be a special resource for young biologists. "We hope school kids will make regular use of it," he says.

Joe Poindexter



Come help us celebrate
the dedication and opening of the
nature trail on Cagney Hill Road
Sunday, July 14, noon

EVERYONE WELCOME

Families and Children

Guided Tour, Beavers and
Refreshments

Located at the intersection of
Canaan Southfield Road and Cagney Hill Road
The New Marlborough Land Trust

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

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Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

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Thank You to Our Contributors!

Anthony & Marjorie Consolini; Janet Brown; Neil Lidstone; Crozer W. Martin;
Carroll S. Woodward Sr.; Sue Connell; Joseph Hayes; Ron & Mary Saunders; Michael Skrak;
Dr. & Mrs. James Rippe; Barbara B. Halberstadter; and Roger & Jerry Tilles

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

- Mary Coin, by Marisa Silver
- Zero Hour, by Clive Cussler
- Deeply Odd, by Dean Koontz
- Oscar Wilde and the Murders at Reading Gaol, by Gyles Brandreth
- Kill Room, by Jeffrey Deaver

Adult Nonfiction

- Straw Bale Gardens: The Breakthrough Method of Growing Vegetables Anywhere, Earlier and with No Weeding, by Joel Karsten
- Empire of Shadows: The Epic Story of Yellowstone, by George Black

Children's Fiction

- Butterfly Tree, by Sandra Markle
- Sounds Around Town, by Maria Carluccio
- Mooshka: A Quilt Story, by Julie Paschkis
- Once There Was A House, A House That Was A Home, by Alex T. Smith

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS:

Mon., Wed., & Sat.:
10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Tues-Fri 1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Thurs 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
229-6668



BOOK SALE COLLECTING!

The Friends of the New Marlborough Library will be collecting books for their annual book sale on Saturdays July 13, July 20 and July 27 from 10am -12:00pm at the Town Hall in Mill River.

No magazines, text books, encyclopedias or books in poor condition. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE BOOKS AT THE TOWN HALL AT ANY OTHER TIMES!

For more info contact the library at 229-6668

photo by Jane Birke



The New Marlborough Library kicked off its summer reading program, "Dig Into Reading@your library!" at the New Marlborough Central School with minstrel storyteller Mary Jo Maichack and the BOOKWORM BOP! Mary Jo sang, played the guitar, told multicultural tales, and invited the students to listen, sing, chant, dance, and act along with her. This program was supported in part by a grant from The New Marlborough Cultural Council.

(413) 229-2544
Free Estimates

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**Herbert W. Eichstedt III
Jason W. Eichstedt**

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

Please fill in the form and send with your contribution to:
New Marlborough 5 Village News, P.O.Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

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

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Town Times

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

Emergency calls: Police, Fire, and Medical: 911

Transfer Station hours:

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

PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at
the Town Hall in Mill River

FEE IS \$100

CAN BE PAID BY MAIL,
PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED
STAMPED ENVELOPE

New Marlborough Highway Department

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

*We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.
Other businesses can be listed in the Service Sector (see back page). Questions, rates? Call Barbara Lowman: 229-2369*

NM5VN Editorial Team

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Pam Stebbins, Kenzie Fields, Jane Burke,
Charlie Parton, David Lowman, Barbara Lowman,
Martha Bryan, Jon Swan, Peter Schuyten,
Joe Poindexter, Marianne Swan, Debra Herman
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Ann Getsinger, Mary Richie Smith, and Tara White

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,
also online at www.newmarlborough.org
The next issue will be dated August 2013.
All copy must be submitted no later than July 15.
For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259
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- ♦ **Berkshire Environmental Research Center (BERC):** Thomas Coote. Lake & pond management, wetland delineation, ecological research, rare/invasive species assessment. 413-644-4509. tcoote@simons-rock.edu
- ♦ **Berkshire Geo-Technologies:** Civil engineering – perc testing, septic designs, wetland permitting, residential & commercial site design, structural evaluation & design. Located in Monterey. Please call 413-429-4888
- ♦ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed and insured contracting at campbellfallscarpentry@gmail.com (413)229-6097 and (413)429-7677. Mass Contractors # 7614140, HIC# 170377
- ♦ **Cale's Pet Care:** Pet sitting, dog walking, small farm care. Experienced, caring, and reliable. Call Cale James at 229-2271
- ♦ **Corashire Realty:** Serving New Marlborough for 40 years. Let experience, knowledge, and personal attention work for you. 528-0014
- ♦ **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. 413- 528-4960. christopher.f.blair@verizon.net.
- ♦ **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or info@designfirstberkshires.com.
- ♦ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 229-0050
- ♦ **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- ♦ **James Edelman:** General Contractor, Real Estate Sales. Best Results. Construction License #090773. Home Improvement Registration #152035. Real Estate Sales License #9086247. 413-528-0006 or cljvedelman@aol.com
- ♦ **Quality Painting Services:** Beautifying homes in the Berkshires. Offering interior/exterior painting, staining, sheetrock repair. Pressure washing decks. Contractor registration #173566. Josh Taber, 413.269.8948
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- ♦ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450

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