



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

New Marlborough's Graduating Seniors

...and Their Plans



photo by Catherine Twing

From left: Tabitha Petrowicz, Katherine Brigham, Samantha Twing, Christian Wells, Nathan Redman, Chelsea Eichstedt, Sam Hess, Krista VanCour, and Lauren Scapin. (Jake Christinat is missing from the picture.)

Katherine Brigham — Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rensselaer, New York, biomedical engineering

Jake Christinat — Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield

Chelsea Eichstedt — Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield

Samuel Hess — State University of New York, Cobleskill, New York, diesel technology

Tabitha Petrowicz — Bay Path University, Longmeadow, cyber security

Nathan Redman — Paul Smith's College, Paul Smith's, New York, or Race Mountain Tree Service, Sheffield

Lauren Scapin — Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, pre-law,

Samantha Twing — Franklin Pierce University, Rindge, New Hampshire, music

Krista VanCour — Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams, social work

Christian Wells — A & A Memorials, Great Barrington

researched by Catherine and Samantha Twing

NEW WORLDS AWAIT

Mount Everett Graduates Compare Experiences

On June 4, forty-six Mount Everett High School seniors assembled on the grounds of Tanglewood to accept diplomas — and the congratulations of proud parents, relatives, and friends. Their number included ten from New Marlborough, including Tabitha Petrowicz, Jake Christinate, Katherine Brigham, Samantha Twing, Christian Wells, Nathan Redman, Chelsea Eichstedt, Sam Hess, Krista VanCour, and Lauren Scapin. Two of the parents, Deidre Scapin and Robert Twing, Jr., watched the ceremony from a special perspective: They, too, are Mount Everett graduates. In conversations with parents and daughters, it appears that at least one thing has changed: The cliques that divided the high-school classes of two and three decades ago have given way to a new togetherness. Herewith, their recollections:

Samantha and Robert Twing

Samantha Twing is the third generation of Twings to attend Southern Berkshire Schools, but she has never thought much about the long family history with the schools. However, for her father, Robert Twing Jr., who graduated in 1987 with seventy-five others, a family history was well established by the time he arrived. “At first I had to contend with the mixed reputation of the Twings who preceded me,” he says. “My father left after ninth grade to go to work and some of my relatives didn’t take school very seriously. But I was able to form good relationships with Mount Everett teachers who showed me how much they cared about my learning, just as I see that they did for Samantha.” The offerings were different in his day. “I was in the old building before the renovation so there were fewer choices,” he says. “There was no after-school theater or music groups.”

On the plus side, however, was a better vocational program than is offered today. “I was able to be an intern at Asher Benjamin’s wood shop in Mill River, which prepared me well for my career, but I had no time for anything else after school,” says Robert. Samantha had long days, too. She often stayed late at school to participate in plays and arrived early for band and choral groups.

Both speak of special relationships with teachers. Robert recalls classroom teachers Mrs. Storti and Mr. Alvarez as especially supportive, while Samantha names Ms. English, her band teacher for more than six years, as a second mom whom she saw almost every day.

As high-schoolers, the social lives of father and daughter had similarities, but for different reasons. “I had a lot of friends in my neighborhood, so school friends weren’t that important,” says Robert. “At school, there were the heads, the reds, and the jocks,” he says, referring, presumably to good students, rednecks, and athletes. “They didn’t mix.” Samantha’s class did not have the same cliquishness, but because of its small size — forty-eight

students — it was not always easy for her to find friends, especially for quiet kids like her, she observes. “In high school I made friends with younger kids through theater.



Samantha and Robert Twing

I found some of the older kids to be so preoccupied with dating, and checking their Facebook, that they didn’t interact that much in school.”

Robert’s prom was at the Hilton in Pittsfield, with no after-party provided by the school. “We went to someone’s house where parents collected our car keys and we made our own party,” he recalls. Even though Samantha was chosen for a solo performance of the “Star-Spangled Banner,” she, too, was unimpressed by the prom. “People build up expectations, but then when we were at Crissy Farms I didn’t think it was that big a deal. It’s a big showcase but not that big,” she says.

Robert was just glad to get finished with school. “I decided not to go to college and to get right into the workforce,” he says. “Right after high school, I moved to Virginia Beach [Virginia], but in six months I moved back to New Marlborough where I could be part of a close community.” Samantha is just trying to collect her thoughts as she prepares for Franklin Pierce University in the fall. “I am feeling numb right now, so I’m not sure how I feel about leaving Mount Everett,” she says. “It is scary to go on to something new, but I am ready to go to college and find what else is out there for me.”

As a father who has remained involved in Southern Berkshire education by working with the New Marlborough Monterey PTA and the School Committee for three years, Robert remains immensely proud of how Samantha took advantage of the resources she found there. A broad smile conveys his pleasure in her accomplishments. With Samantha’s and her older sister Catherine’s successes at Mount Everett, he can enjoy the fact that the Twing reputation at Southern Berkshire is now nothing but positive. □

Jane Burke

Lauren and Deidre Scapin

John and Deidre Scapin are familiar with Mount Everett commencements, as June 4 marked the graduation of their fifth and youngest child, Lauren. Not only that, but Deidre herself graduated from Mount Everett in 1979, before the ceremony was held at Tanglewood. "When we graduated it was at school. They set up bleachers right on the lawn," says Deidre, noting that it felt much more relaxed than the way it is now at the concert shed in Lenox. It was also a less formal experience. The prom, at Searles Castle, left an even dimmer impression on Deidre. "It was lame because it was all about four of the popular kids. The rest of us didn't matter. We got there late, we ate, and then we left right afterwards to go to parties." Lauren has mixed feelings about her proms. Her junior prom in 2015 at Crissy Farm in Great Barrington was her favorite because of the movie theme and red carpet, but she didn't like the proms of 2014 or 2016 as much.

The thing Lauren will miss most about Mount Everett is, paradoxically, also the thing she will miss the least: the small class and closeness of the classmates. "I'll miss seeing my friends. If I had a problem or if I was annoyed I could vent to anyone about it," she says. But it had its downside. "You couldn't have a personal life," she says. "Everyone knew everything all the time, and you didn't have other options."

Deidre's class was also small, but unlike the class of 2016, she notes, her class was far from unified. "You had your jocks, and your cheerleaders who dated the jocks," she chuckles. "We didn't all sit together at lunch. If your friends weren't there, you just didn't go to lunch." Lauren laughs, too, and comments on how different it was for her class, noting that everyone would have sat together

except that the tables were too small.

The senior class prank, a tradition when Deidre was in high school, is prohibited these days. But Lauren's class did hold a scavenger hunt, which included ding-dong-ditching a teacher's house (a prank that involves ringing a doorbell and then scampering away before the doorbell is answered). "We ding-dong-ditched the Sikets' and they were not happy. They were so mad because they have kids. I had a feeling 'This isn't going to be a good idea,'" she said.

Both mother and daughter had positive relationships with teachers. Deidre recalls going on a trip to Spain with John Peron, her English and Spanish teacher. She wishes the study-abroad trips were as affordable now as they were then. Lauren had a good relationship with culinary teacher

Sue Petrucci to whom she felt she could tell anything. Math, she says, was her favorite subject because of the way math teacher Neal Barbieri made it fun and easy.

But for both, friends provided their favorite memories. "My friends were the only reason I went to school. It was just a social thing. Unfortunately, I don't think I learned anything," jokes Deidre. "My senior trip was pretty memorable," recalls Lauren, "white-water rafting in Lake George. And middle school, all I did was fool around with my friends. That was great fun."

And then there is that paradoxical feeling again. "I am ready to be done," says Lauren, "but I am a little sad at the same time."

Lauren plans to attend Berkshire Community College in the fall to study pre-law. □

Catherine Twing



Deidre and Lauren Scapin

photo by Catherine Twing

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THE MEETING HOUSE RENEWAL

With an Eye to Restoring the Old

By Louise Yohalem

After a long planning process, filled with unexpected, fascinating, and, yes, expensive detours, the Meeting House renovations and restorations are underway. Drive along Route 57 and each day a new piece of large construction equipment and crews of workers can be seen.

Originally planned to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Meeting House, the restorations were to include repairs and painting inside and out. New front steps, new drainage and new gallery windows would leave New Marlborough's historic landmark restored to its full glory, preserved to be enjoyed for generations to come. All this was to be possible thanks to the generosity of so many members of our community who made donations to the New Marlborough Village Association's 175th Anniversary Capital Campaign. Together with a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund, the original goal of \$175,000 was met and exceeded.

The first sign that there was more involved arrived in the form of an unusually rainy summer in 2014. Alas, the roof began to leak copiously. Buckets in the attic and a tarp over parts of the roof halted the damage occurring in the main hall. But the leaking roof turned out to be a minor problem compared to what was discovered during the roof inspection: the pillars surrounding the cupola were seriously rotted and in danger of collapsing. Replacing the pillars and repairing the cupola became a priority, along with roof repairs more durable than buckets and plastic wrap.

Replacement of the eight columns of the cupola evolved into a classic example of how the repair of a historic building can run to real money. Since the cupola is high above the ground and not subject to close inspection, the Village Association elected to construct the pillars from an inexpensive composite material. But the Massachusetts Historical Commission nixed that solution; the pillars had to be made of wood. At this point, Richard Stebbins, head of the building committee, contacted Kurt Hoelter, a Canaan, New York, restoration specialist who had



The renovation will restore the boxed steps that once led to the main hall, with guidance from images such as this one from a late 19th century postcard.

replaced the Meeting House cupola some thirty years ago. Mr. Hoelter recommended mahogany and drew up plans for constructing each pillar out of ten Doric-fluted sections, cut in such a way as to create an architecturally-correct taper. The cost for the eight pillars: \$17,290.

Meanwhile, spring rains this year put the roof repairs to the test. They failed. The existing shingles were too fragile for the repairs to be effective. As this is being written, a new roof is being laid. Downstairs, beautiful, triple-glazed windows have been installed in the gallery, its plaster repaired, its walls painted, and its ceiling hung with acoustic panels. The back room of the gallery has been outfitted with new shelving, counter space, and a refrigerator — just in time to chill the white wine for the opening of the season's first show on June 17.

Work continues outdoors.

In mid-June, the front steps were removed. Not only were they aging but a prior renovation had introduced an awkward design for those not-sure-of-foot. Reconstruction of the steps is being guided by images of the Meeting House from an old photo and postcard. That project should be completed by the end of June and work on the cupola is well underway. The exterior will be freshly painted. Plasterwork and painting of the great room upstairs will be completed in time for the first



Removal and excavation of the existing steps revealed a crumbling foundation in need of reinforcement from a cement retaining wall.

photo by Larry Burke

PROGRESS!

New Marlborough's Quest for Broadband Takes a Step Forward

by Barry R. Shapiro

When the "pause" on funding the expansion of broadband to unserved communities in Western Massachusetts was lifted on May 10, things began moving quickly in New Marlborough.

A broadband committee, chaired by Richard Long, has been formed and is actively working on getting New Marlborough into the queue for projects to be reviewed and approved by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), which is administering the program for the state. Other members of the committee are Tom Stalker, Michele Shalaby, Owen Wright, and Steven Klein.

"The committee has had two meetings and is exploring two paths, both of which are relevant to prepare the necessary form to get us into the queue," Mr. Long reports. "We hope to approve the form at our next meeting on June 22. We are essentially pursuing two models suggested by the governor's report. The first is to go with an organization such as Frontier Communications, which would build, own and operate the network." Frontier, in fact, submitted a request for information to New Marlborough in January. "The other," says Mr. Long, "is to pursue a multi-town effort with some of the neighboring towns who have expressed an interest in working with us. Those are Sandisfield, Monterey, Tyringham and Tolland. All towns are anxious to move forward."

Asked where WiredWest figured in the committee's analysis, Mr. Long said, "We are aware, of course, of WiredWest and its advocates. Tim Newman [New Marlborough's representative to WiredWest] has been at our meetings. As of now, WiredWest has not resolved its issues with MBI and it is not technically an option."

According to Tim Newman, however, WiredWest has not given up its efforts.

"WiredWest met in early June with the people from MBI and presented to them what we call Plan A2, which

contains revisions to the original WiredWest operating model. We stand by our original operating model but are reacting to the MBI position. We are flexible, listening, want the towns to succeed and we think we can play a role. We are still waiting for a reaction to our new model. We continue to believe strongly that most towns will need to regionalize to be sustainable."

According to a document made available by WiredWest, Plan A2 addresses three areas that were of specific concern to MBI, as well as some of its member towns:

- The physical assets of the network would be owned by the towns in which they are situated. Under the original operating plan, they would have been owned by WiredWest.
- Towns would be allowed to withdraw from the cooperative after five years, rather than ten as originally proposed.
- WiredWest agrees to outsource operations to a third party, presumably a company with experience running an Internet provider. In the earlier plan, WiredWest was to have handled operations internally.

Despite these changes, however, at least up to the day that this issue of the *5 Village News* went to press, MBI was still refusing to fund any town that signs on with WiredWest.

On July 13 at 10:00 a.m., Frontier Communications will meet at Town Hall with the Town's broadband committee. The meeting is open to the public.

So, bottom line, progress is being made, although what happens after the town gets into the queue for review and approval by MBI remains to be seen. According to the MBI website, the process will take approximately twenty-one days and will involve extensive documentation and analysis, designed to result in a project status recommendation by MBI.

The saga continues. □

Meeting House Renewal, continued

Music and More program on August 27.

The Village Association has collaborated with the Highway Department, the New Marlborough Land Trust, and The Trustees of Reservations to link drainage lines to the ones being added to Meeting House grounds. This new drainage system will keep North Road runoff water from breaching the Meeting House walls and prevent the North Road and the road in front of the Meeting House from washing away during heavy rainfalls.

The Village Association is an all-volunteer non-

profit organization. A stalwart, dedicated, and very hardworking building committee, which in addition to Mr. Stebbins includes Ben Harms and David Hosford, has handled all of the logistics of what became a far more complicated project than was ever contemplated. The successful completion of all phases of the renovations is assured by their diligence and the wholehearted backing of the Board of Directors. The final step in the 175th Anniversary project will be a gala celebration for everyone who contributed to the campaign making the restoration possible. □

Town Business Is Your Business



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

May 23: Because of an evening schedule conflict, the Board convened this week's meeting at 12:30 p.m., with all three selectmen attending. After approving the minutes from the May 6 and May 16 meetings, the Board turned its attention to the pressing matter of how to cut the Fiscal 2017 budget to bring it below the Proposition 2½ percent levy limit. As Chairman Nat Yohalem noted in kicking off the discussion, the budget as approved at the Annual Town Meeting exceeds the levy limit by \$55,000. The immediate task is to come up with budget cuts that not only erases the \$55,000 overage, but adds a \$20,000 cushion in the event Town revenues come in lower than expected. The cuts will then have to be approved by the voters at a special town meeting.

In its initial go-around, the Board was able to identify \$36,000 in potential cuts, including \$10,000 from the Highway Department's machinery maintenance budget, \$23,000 from the group health insurance budget, and \$1,000 each from the assessor's general expense fund, the tax collector's certification budget, and the Town records preservation budget. The Board asked Highway Superintendent Loring, who was present for the meeting, to review his propane and diesel fuel budgets for possible cuts and, in his role as fire chief, to see whether cuts can also be made to the Fire Department's \$61,000 fire protection budget. The Board indicated it will also be approaching other town department heads and committee chairmen, including Building Inspector Tom Carmody, the Council on Aging's Prue Spaulding, Marsha Pshenishny in the assessor's office, and Edgar Zukauskas, chairman of the Umpachene Falls Park Commission, about their budgets.

In a related development, the Board, at Selectman Michele Shalaby's urging, agreed to send a letter to the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee asking for its help with the budget, and specifically to see whether the School Committee can find further cuts in either its operating and transportation budgets or its capital account to help the Town get under the levy limit. One thing the Board did not do, even though it was on the agenda, was to ask the School Committee to consider suspending the Egremont School program as a cost saving measure, figuring it would generate ill will from both the Egremont and Monterey

Boards. As Ms. Shalaby noted, "You're going to have two towns who are going to fight us on that, when what we need is for them to stand behind us and say, yes, help them out."

Chairman Yohalem said the Town received four resumes to fill the Town's treasurer position; it also received a contract proposal from Baystate Municipal Accounting Group. Baystate has been performing most of the treasurer functions on a contract basis since October when former Treasurer Peter Gay resigned. After reviewing the resumes, the selectmen agreed to interview three of the candidates and to evaluate the Baystate proposal to extend its contract after that. They also

discussed whether there's a potential conflict in having a member of the Finance Committee serve as treasurer, since one of the four candidates, Marilyn Fracasso, was elected to the Finance Committee at the recent town election. But no one on the Board viewed it as a problem.

The Board voted to authorize Town Administrator Mari Enoch to renew the town's contract with the Center for EcoTechnology (CET) for the collection of hazardous waste. The assessment this year, according to Ms. Enoch, is for \$1,289, which is based on the Town's population and the number of residents who took advantage of the program last year. As previously reported, the program allows New Marlborough residents to dispose of hazardous materials such as oil-based paints and motor oil at designated collection sites.

Ms. Enoch gave an update on the planning for the replacement of the Hadsell Street bridge, which has been closed since 2011. She said the work is proceeding on two

Mr. Yohalem suggested the Land Trust donate to the Town a parcel of land abutting the Lee Memorial Cemetery for additional Burial space.

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parallel paths. One is to “lay out” the roads —Canaan Southfield, Umpachene Falls, and Hadsell Street — leading up to and away from the bridge. This process, which produces a surveyor’s description of the roads contiguous to the bridge, is required because federal grant money is paying part of the cost. To make it official, voters must approve it at a town meeting. The other is the acquisition of several small land parcels and related easements necessary for the work to proceed; these were previously approved at the Annual Town Meeting. She said the town and the state are working under strict Federal deadlines that call for putting the project out for bid by September. “So all this has to be wrapped up by then,” Ms. Enoch said, or the town could lose \$1.1 million in funding. Construction is scheduled to begin next year. She also asked the Board to designate one of its members to act as a liaison between the town and the affected property owners, which Selectman White agreed to take on.

Mr. Yohalem reported on his conversation with Land Trust Executive Director Martha Bryan in which he suggested the Land Trust donate to the Town a parcel of land abutting the Lee Memorial Cemetery in Southfield, which would be used to expand the cemetery and thus alleviate the shortage of cemetery plots in the town. (After acquisition of the 8.4-acre parcel was first broached in February 2014, a Land Trust proposal for a swap of land was rejected because the Town had no suitable land to trade — nor did any private land holder offer any.) Mr. Yohalem’s newest offer comes with the stipulation the land would be restricted to use as a cemetery or re-conveyed to the Land Trust. He said Ms. Bryan would be taking that back to her board. He also proposed the Land Trust pay the Town \$2,000 a year in lieu of taxes on the land comprising the Joffe Nature Sanctuary and an adjacent parcel just off Cagney Hill Road, which she will also take back to her board.

The Board voted to approve a contingency plan to hold future Memorial Day ceremonies in the Town Hall in the event of rain.

June 1: Because of the Memorial Day holiday, this week’s meeting was moved to Wednesday, with all three selectmen attending. After approving the minutes from May 23, the Board turned its attention once again to reducing the FY17 budget to bring it under the Proposition 2 ½ percent levy limit. The goal, as previously reported, is to find approximately \$75,000 in cuts, which would allow for a \$20,000 cushion in the event Town revenues come in lower than expected. As of last week, the Board had found \$36,000, leaving it \$39,000 short of its goal. However since

then, Ms. Enoch said she has been able to identify another \$15,800 in cuts, bringing the total reduction so far to \$51,800. The latest reductions include \$5,000 from the assessor’s revaluation and computer contingency budgets, \$3,000 from library expenses, \$2,000 from the Council on Aging’s transportation budget, and \$1,500 from the Tax

Collector’s tax title budget, plus smaller sums from the Police Department, building inspector, and the animal inspector’s expense budget.

That, however, still leaves the selectmen nearly \$25,000 short of their goal. So it was agreed Mr. Yohalem and Ms. Enoch would meet with Fire Chief Loring and Maureen Krejci of the Rescue Squad next Monday to discuss cuts to the fire protection and rescue squad expense budgets.

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VESSELS
AN INVITATIONAL
MIXED MEDIA SHOW
JUNE 18 TO JULY 10

Participating Artists:
Lee Backer, Dan Bellow,
JoAnn Kelly Catsos, Cookie Coyne,
Betsey Wells Farber, Ann Getsinger,
Nancy Goldberger, Serena Granbery,
Pat Hogan, Wendy Jensen, Marcie Kammel,
Phyllis Kornfeld, Elizabeth L. Lombardi,
Jeanne Marklin, Gwen Melvin,
Marjorie Pollack, Peggy Reeves,
Larry Silk, Linda Skipper,
Abbe Stahl Steinglass, Terry Wise

Gallery Days: Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
At the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery
On RT 57 New Marlborough, MA



As Mr. Yohalem noted, "We have been supporting both those organizations on everything they've asked for, including a half a million dollar fire truck and the ambulance; everything they've asked for we've gone along with. Now we're asking them for \$10,000 from one and \$5,000 from the other."

In a related move, the Board reviewed and approved a letter to School Committee Chairman Carl Stewart, asking for the School Committee's help with the budget. It says, in part: "While the School is not compelled to do so, the Board of Selectmen respectfully requests that the Finance Subcommittee examine the FY17 budget to see if there is a reduction to be made that might help us to balance our Town budget."

The Board approved the awarding of service anniversary plaques to Town employees Marsha Pshenishny and Robert Palmer for their years of service. Ms. Pshenishny is celebrating thirty years in the assessor's office, while Mr. Palmer, who works for the Highway Department in the winter and the Cemetery Commission the rest of the year, is celebrating thirty-four years of employment with the Town. The Board discussed the possibility of also acknowledging five-year service anniversaries but came to no decision on that.

Right of way plans for the Hadsell Street bridge have been finalized, according to Ms. Enoch, and she and Selectman White are now going to be contacting affected property owners to secure easements or outright acquisitions of several small parcels of land. Ms. Enoch also reported Highway Superintendent Loring would like to hire a temporary employee for weed whacking duty in and around the town's guardrails, to be paid from funds already available in his budget. The Board asked for the name and rate of pay of the person he intends to hire. Meanwhile, Board Secretary Sharon Fleck was asked to follow up on a letter seeking several such workers, sent in February to County Sheriff Thomas Bowler's Community Service program but that never received a response.

Before adjourning, the Board set its summer meeting schedule as follows:

Monday	June 27	6:00 p.m.
Monday	July 11	6:00 p.m.
Monday	July 25	5:00 p.m.
Saturday	August 6	10:00 a.m.
Monday	August 15	6:00 p.m.
Monday	August 29	6:00 p.m.
Monday	September 12	6:00 p.m.

June 6: After a one-hour executive session requested by Police Chief Frank to discuss his contract, the Board convened in regular session at 6:30 p.m., with all three

selectmen present. The first order of business was to review Chief Frank's performance during his first full year as head of the Police Department. He recapped for the Board the status of the goals he set for himself at this time last year. These included updating the department's juvenile policy; completing the training of a new part-time officer; recruiting an additional part-time officer; centralizing home alarm registration and billing; and securing funding for a new cruiser, all of which he said have largely been accomplished.

High on his list of goals for the coming year is moving the department into the fire house complex, as was contemplated several years ago. He said there's suitable space available for an office in the old firehouse, where the cruiser is now housed, but that renovations need to be made to the building for which the Fire Department is currently raising funds. Mr. Yohalem asked Ms. Enoch to contact Fire Company President David Smith for an update on the company's renovation plans. Separately, Selectman Shalaby asked Chief Frank to include in his next set of goals taking the lead in the Town's opioid addiction efforts, which he agreed to do. In answer to a question from Mr. Yohalem, Chief Frank said he's expecting the new cruiser, approved by the voters at last month's Annual Town Meeting, to arrive in mid-August. In conclusion, he said that three people have expressed an interest in serving on his Community Advisory Board, which he proposed to the selectmen last October as a way of enhancing police-community relations, and that he is looking for at least two more.

In a related discussion, at Chief Frank's urging, the Board agreed to raise the rate charged to private companies that hire Police Department officers for traffic work from \$41 an hour to \$42 an hour starting July 1 and \$43 an hour in July of 2017. This, according to Chief Frank, is comparable to what Sheffield's officers are receiving.

The Board authorized Ms. Enoch to offer the treasurer's job — vacant since last October when Peter Gay moved to Cape Cod — to Marilyn Fracasso, a long-time New Marlborough resident and, since her May election, a member of the Finance Committee. Ms. Fracasso previously worked as bookkeeper and office manager for Harland B. Foster, Inc., the Great Barrington heating and air conditioning firm. The offer pays a salary of \$18 an hour for an eighteen-hour week. The Board would like her to start as soon as she is available. She will be trained by Baystate Municipal Accounting Group, starting in July.

On Highway Superintendent Loring's recommendation, the Board awarded the resurfacing of Corashire Road and the north end of Norfolk Road to LB Corp. of Lee

The \$1.1 million cost of the new Hadsell Street bridge will be paid by the state and the federal government.

whose bid of \$156,000 for both jobs is \$9,000 less than the \$165,000 budgeted and approved by town voters at the Annual Town Meeting. The work is expected to be completed this summer.

The Board voted to approve a contingency plan to hold future Memorial Day ceremonies in the Town Hall in the event of rain. This year's Memorial Day observance had to be cancelled because of rain, when there was no backup plan.

In budget-related developments, Mr. Yohalem said he and Ms. Enoch met earlier in the day with Fire Chief Loring and the Rescue Squad's Ms. Krejci to discuss reductions in the fire protection and rescue squad budgets, saying they agreed to get back to the Board with a response by June 6. He said he also received a call from School Finance Subcommittee Chair Vito Valentini, saying there will be a School Committee meeting June 6 at which the Town's request for assistance with its budget would be discussed. Mr. Valentini said that in preparation for the meeting, school district Business Manager Chris Regan has been asked to review the budget for possible additional cuts and to determine if incoming revenues had been understated.

Starting Thursday, June 14, the assessor's office, Ms. Enoch noted, will go on summer hours, 7:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday, until August 25.

June 13: With all three selectmen present, the Board voted to approve the purchase of a Kobelco excavator from Abele Tractor and Equipment Co. of Albany on the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Loring. Abele's was the lowest of four bids, coming in with a base price of \$128,509. To that was added \$5,000 to cover an extended warranty and an extra bucket. Mr. Loring also received Board authorization to purchase an auto-lubricating system for the excavator at a cost of \$7,000, bringing the total price of the unit to just under \$140,000, the amount approved by the voters in May. Mr. Loring said he expects to take delivery in four to six weeks.

The Board voted to send the recently completed road layout plans for the Hadsell Street bridge to the Planning Board for its approval, and from there they will be voted on by the town at a special town meeting to be scheduled for the end of July. Once approved, the plans will go to the state Department of Transportation for its review and approval, after which the project will be put out to bid, and all of it has to happen by September to meet a federal funding deadline. In the meantime, Ms. Enoch and Ms. White are working on the acquisition of several small parcels of land and related easements necessary for the work to proceed. The \$1.1 million cost of the new bridge will be paid by the state and the federal government.






The Board reviewed Mr. Loring's employment contracts as Highway Superintendent and Fire Chief for the coming year. After approving his performance in both positions, it agreed that the Fire Chief stipend should remain at

\$10,000 and that his superintendent salary should be increased by \$3,250 to \$70,000 per year.

In distributing the latest budget spreadsheet, Town Administrator Enoch noted two more budget cuts: \$2,000 from the Fire Department's fire protection budget and \$3,400 from Rescue Squad expenses. That brings the total reduction to \$57,200, enough to bring the FY2017 budget under the proposition 2½ percent levy limit. But it provides a cushion of only \$2,400 in the event Town revenues come in lower than expected, not even close to the \$20,000 cushion the selectmen were hoping for. Also, there was no resolution as to whether the School Committee will be able to help the Town with additional budget cuts. As Mr. Yohalem noted, the School District has its own budget problems and won't know until latesummer whether it will be in a position to help the Town.

So with that the Board went ahead with plans to schedule a special town meeting for Monday, July 25, at 7:00 p.m., where voters will be asked to approve the budget cuts and authorize the Hadsell Street road layout plans for the new bridge. Chairman Yohalem discussed the possibility of sending a letter to all 700 New Marlborough households outlining the issues to be voted on at the meeting and urging everyone to attend. However, the Board decided to obtain a legal opinion on it from Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard before sending such a letter. □

Peter Schuyten

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THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

The work of balancing our Town budget continues. As of this writing it appears that the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee, will be able to deliver a budget proposal at a Special Town Meeting that will put us under the limits of Proposition 2½ without major cuts to services. We've sought budget relief two ways: eliminating appropriation amounts that typically go unspent and taking on a bit of risk.

The largest, single budget cut we'll propose is to group insurance, the budget appropriation from which we pay the Town's portion of employee healthcare. The original proposal accounted for all current employees on the Town's insurance plan plus an additional two family plans. By cutting this budget by \$23,000, we reduce coverage to one family plan. If more than one employee requests a family plan, we are legally obligated to provide it and will have to derive the funds from another source such as the Reserve Fund or another appropriation. We are hedging the same bet on the second largest budget cut: \$10,000 in the Highway Department machinery maintenance budget.

Another source of cuts is coming from departments that have consistently spent less than they were appropriated.

They have agreed to pare their budgets to an amount reflecting what they historically spend. Again, we risk having to cut back on services if the costs are higher than predicted.

An additional risk of this strategy is to our Free Cash and our Capital Plan. New Marlborough typically generates only \$150,000 of Free Cash per year from operational efficiencies — or approximately 1.5% of our total budget. This illustrates how tightly we budget. As we decrease appropriations, our Free Cash is likely to diminish along with our ability to purchase capital equipment with cash rather than debt. Alternatively, we may have to delay purchases. Nevertheless, as we look ahead, we will continue the work of capital planning with the most current information available.

Though we have reduced the budget to the Proposition 2½ ceiling, we will continue to seek cuts to produce a buffer, technically known as "excess capacity." A buffer is desirable because we may fall short of projected revenue, which, at this point, is only a prediction. Excess capacity will ensure that we can meet all obligations, even if revenue is less than our conservative estimate. As we continue to work with department heads, we have also asked the School District if they will re-examine their budget to provide us some relief. The superintendent, the business manager, and the School Committee have all indicated that they will do so.

The Board of Selectmen is grateful to all those who have worked with us to find savings in the budget. Led by Town Administrator Mari Enoch, department heads and the Finance Committee have graciously and diligently participated. And finally, thanks to the many New Marlborough citizens who have been a valued part of this process! □

Michele Shalaby



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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 26: With Ned Wilson, John Schreiber, and Freddie Friedman present, Cathy Hagen, representing the Lake Buel District, requested an extension of five years — instead of the typical three — to an existing order of conditions (original Notice of Intent permit filed in 2013) concerning the repair of damage to the Lake Buel dam. Dr. Schreiber voiced his concern over a five-year extension due to the complicated management issues of the lake level, which, he said, benefit from periodic oversight. The Commission agreed to extend the order of conditions by three years, and Mr. Friedman advised Ms. Hagen to notify abutters of the extension.

Next, the Commission, with property owner Ted Shmulsky present, addressed an enforcement order issued for mowing on the bank of the Konkapot River in the flood plain off Adsit Crosby Road. The Commission explained the regulations and that filing a Notice of Intent is required for this activity. Mr. Shmulsky agreed to comply with the restrictions in the future and assured the Commission that there would be no further disturbance to the bank.

Last on the agenda was a discussion of an enforcement order issued to Zufer Derisevic of 212 East Hill Road, who was present with his wife. Commission member Friedman, who is a real-estate agent representing a

nearby property, recused himself from the discussion. At issue was the excavation, demolition, and apparent burial of demolition debris in the area of a perennial stream that had occurred without permitting. After explaining the protocols that should have been followed, the Commission stated that, given the nature of the wetlands violation, the property owner is required to file a Notice of Intent, including a written plan drawn by an engineer for any work on the property, any site cleanup and any anticipated future work. Mr. Derisevic said he had had a difficult time understanding the regulations and what was required of him to address the violation. The Commission explained that it must receive an engineering plan from him by June 25 and that beyond that date the Department of Environmental Protection has authority to issue an additional violation and levy additional fines on a daily basis. The Commission referred Mr. Derisevic to three engineering firms that might help him with the necessary permitting. Mr. Derisevic left the meeting with an understanding of his obligations and what steps he can take to meet state regulations.

Finally, the mail was reviewed and last month's minutes were approved with minor edits. □

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September 3 Douglas Trumbull

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September 10 Simon Shaheen

Simon Shaheen is joined by a percussionist and a qanun player (qanun is a type of hammered dulcimer) for "From Cairo to Andalusia," a program of traditional Egyptian and Syrian music, plus improvisations and original compositions by Simon Shaheen.

September 17 Simone Dinnerstein

Harold Lewin Memorial Concert

New York-based pianist Simone Dinnerstein performs Schubert and Glass. Dinnerstein gained an international following after the remarkable success of her recording of Bach's Goldberg Variations.

September 24 The Sebastians

A dynamic and vital musical ensemble specializing in music of the baroque and classical eras. The Sebastians will present "Over the Alps", tracing the musical evolution of the Italian style as it migrated over the mountains to the Austro-German regions. Take a musical journey with baroque instrumentals and the soprano Awet Andemicael.

October 1 Clarinetist Paul Green and combo

Paul Green and his Jazz/Jewish fusionband "Two Worlds" collaborate with world renowned Sephardic Singer Sarah Aroeste in a program that presents Jazz, Klezmer and Sephardic music. An exciting fusion of styles results from the common ground of artistic passion and fervor.

October 8 Award-Winning Authors

with host Simon Winchester

Simon Winchester has written or contributed to more than a dozen nonfiction books, has written one novel, and his articles have appeared in several travel publications. His guest **Novelist Nicholson Baker** is an American novelist and essayist. He received a National Book Critics Circle Award in 2001 for his nonfiction book "Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper and the International Hermann Hesse Prize in 2014."

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CHALLENGE

Balancing Long-term Goals Against Short-term Needs

By Barbara Lowman

Maybe service on the Town's Finance Committee was once pretty straightforward. Not anymore. This year, there is not only a fire to put out, but there is the long-term problem of how to keep future budgets from bursting into flame.

In the short term, the Committee and the Board of Selectmen are seeking resolution to the problem created when voters at the Annual Town Meeting approved a budget that exceeded the levy limit of Proposition 2½ and then voted to reject the proposal to override Proposition 2½. This meant that the budget had to go back to the Committee and the selectmen for revision to comply with the levy limit.

This highlights continuing problems that the Finance Committee faces each year. A sizable portion of the budget, such as the school district budget, insurance premiums, and state-mandated programs or procedures, is beyond the control of the Town. As these costs rise, they increase the pressure on the discretionary budget items (such as tree work, the library, or Umpachene Falls Park) to balance the budget. The Committee is sensitive to the fact that many voters are unable or unwilling to absorb tax increases in excess of the Proposition 2½ limits. The problem then becomes finding the fine line between trimming the budget and cutting services, to arrive at a local budget for the coming year.

But what about the longer term? There'll never be "enough" money to make this problem go away. Are there approaches or procedures that can alleviate it? Between the selectmen and the diverse new and old members of the Finance Committee, a number of possible approaches have surfaced that are both long-range and interrelated, and may provide a way to fashion a rational new framework for constructing future budgets.

The first approach, proposed by the Board of Selectmen, essentially reverses the current procedure of

reviewing each line-item budget and then arriving at the total. Despite the efforts to trim each budget, the total may still exceed the 2½ percent limit, in which case an override of Proposition 2½ is presented to the voters. If it is defeated, the Committee and the selectmen revise further, and present a new budget to the voters.

The proposed procedure would start by totaling all the proposed line items, to determine if and by how much the total exceeds the levy limit. This would provide a view of the whole picture at the beginning of the process. Trims could then be made early on, letting the Committee determine thereby how to balance the various needs. Further, the budget balancing would occur before the budget went to Annual Town Meeting, rather than, as with this year, revising and returning for a second vote. In addition, a mid-year assessment of how the current budgets are being spent would provide additional information for developing the following year's budget.

The second approach was proposed more than a year ago by the Capital Planning Committee. Each department would project its needs for large capital expenditures over a fifteen- to twenty-year span. The Town would contribute to a capital improvement fund each year, so that by the time a major purchase is needed, the funds would be available to meet it. This would reduce the need to borrow money for the purchase, which would also reduce the amount expended for interest on the loan.

Clearly, this is a logical approach that would prove cost-efficient over the long term, but before its benefits can be realized, the fund must be established and the existing debts retired. Implementation will not be easy.

A third approach addresses the need for long-term exploration of problems facing the Town. That is, instead of constantly putting out brush fires, create a maintenance

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No one was more surprised than Marilyn Fracasso to receive a call from Town Clerk Kathy Chretien on May 10 to tell her that she had been elected to the Finance Committee. Seeing that there was an open position on the Town ballot, a write-in effort elected Ms. Fracasso with two votes. Though she had no knowledge of the effort, she thought, "Why not? It's time to do something different," and accepted.

Ms. Fracasso has been the bookkeeper/office manager for Harland B. Foster Company in Great Barrington for twenty-one years. Recently, due to the closing of the retail hardware portion of that business, her hours were cut in half, so she was looking for additional part-time work. She became aware of the vacancy of the Town's treasurer position, applied for it, and was appointed. She is having some initial training prior to her July 1 start and will have more extensive training after that.

Her associate's degree in accounting, coupled with her years of experience with bookkeeping and banking, will be valuable background as she learns the procedures of municipal finance and the treasurer's role. She is completely new to the work of the Finance Committee, however, and remembered with a smile her first meeting, when the Committee was starting the search for ways to bring the budget into compliance. She innocently asked, "Can't we just tell them what to cut?" and was emphatically told "NO-O-O..., we can suggest."

Ms. Fracasso has lived in New Marlborough since 1978. She and her husband, Harry, live on Alum Hill Road, where they have two horses and two miniature donkeys. For years she has worked with the Future Farmers of America group at Mount Everett, bringing interested girls to her home on weekends to work with the horses. She teaches the girls to ride, exercise, and care for the horses. She also enters her horses in shows, and the girls ride them in parades.

Ms. Fracasso is excited about her new roles in Town government. She is eager to learn as much as she can, as fast as she can, so that she can make a significant contribution to New Marlborough. □

program that clears away the brush. An example is that of trees in town which may need attention or removal. Rather than just taking down those trees that pose an immediate threat, the relevant Town employees would fully assess the extent of the problem, provide a realistic cost estimate for the whole problem, and develop a plan for gradually addressing it. The Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen would then determine its priority among competing Town needs.

It's complicated! It will be difficult to deal with short-term needs while also planning a thorough overhaul of financial-planning procedures. But the will and the capability are there. The variety of points of view and skills present on both the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen, plus their firm commitment to improving the financial health of the Town, bode well for the long-range planning. □

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THE PLANNING BOARD MOVES ON

By Joe Poindexter

“No change does not mean no change.” With this pithy epigram, Patrician Hardyman succinctly spotlights the challenge facing the New Marlborough Planning Board. Two failed attempts to amend the Town’s zoning bylaws have delivered a message: a significant minority of New Marlborough voters (a change to the bylaws requires a two-thirds majority in favor) wants things in town to stay the same. Ms. Hardyman’s point, of course, is that no matter what happens to the bylaws, New Marlborough is in a state of constant evolution.

Following the latest failure to amend the zoning bylaw — the amendment defined village areas as distinct from rural and recognized the validity of conditions in the villages that are now grand-fathered but non-conforming — the Planning Board is retrenching. Its current effort is directed not at bylaw changes but at updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), which was last revised in 2004. The Board needs a current OSRP to apply for grants and has engaged Lauren Gafferty of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to help in the effort.

According to Charlie Parton, who took over as chairman after the resignation in May of the former chair, Holly Morse, the Board will soon conduct a survey, to learn how New Marlborough residents want to use open space. The survey will be available in paper form and on home computers from Survey Monkey (see the note from Chairman Parton). Following questions establishing the age, employment, and resident status of the responder, the survey asks such multiple choice questions as:

- What do you like best about living in New Marlborough?
- How do you feel about development?
- What do you do for outdoor recreation?

“We look at this as a transition,” says Mr. Parton. “Step one is to define where we want to go. Step two is

to figure out how we’re going to get there.” Additionally, Mr. Parton has specific concerns about three areas of possible impact: large residential building (what he calls “mega-housing”), solar-panel arrays in open fields, and water availability. “We don’t know that much about water in our town,” he says.

The most immediate challenge, however, lies within the Board itself. Massachusetts requires that planning boards in the state have least five members. The New Marlborough Board is down to four: in addition to Mr. Parton and Ms. Hardyman, they are Jamie Mullen and Mark Carson. As he seeks a new member or two, Mr. Parton is seeking not revolution but evolution. “You present what you want to do and then settle for what you can get,” he says. “I don’t mind regulations, but I want them to be reasonable.”

A Note from the Chairman

This year the Planning Board is updating the Open Space and Recreational Plan, last published in 2004 and approved by the Town in 2006. To bring us up to date we are submitting a brief survey to all who consider New Marlborough a permanent or second home or a loved site of visitation. We will be using the Survey-Monkey application on the Internet, a link to which will be distributed on Maggie’s List and via the New Marlborough website (newmarlboroughma.gov). Printed copies will be available at the Town Hall, Town Library, the Mill River General Store, and the Southfield Store. The survey is intended to provide us with the wishes you have for the preservation of the incomparable beauty of New Marlborough’s landscape, and the wildlife and recreational opportunities we have been awarded. With this award comes the responsibility for custody and development for those who follow us. The survey takes only a few moments. We urge you to give us your thoughts. □

Charlie Parton

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UPCOMING: *Events Calendar for July and August*

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

July 9: White Elephant Collection, for Elihu Burritt Day sale; 10:00 a.m. to noon, Levine-Olenbush barn across from Town Hall in Mill River; also **August 6 and 13**, same time and place

July 9 and 16, Book Collection Days, for the library's Elihu Burritt Day book sale, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Town Hall — no encyclopedias or magazines

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

July 25: Special Town Meeting, to vote on budget cuts, bringing the FY17 budget under the 2-1/2 percent levy limit, and to approve a "lay out" for the Hadsell Street bridge repair, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

July 26: New Marlborough Film Series presents, *A Small Good Thing*; the screening begins at 8:00 p.m. with refreshments at 7:30 p.m. at the Town library

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

August 5, The History of the Immaculate Conception Church in Mill River, on its 150th anniversary, 7:30 p.m. at the Meeting House Gallery, a First Friday program presented by the New Marlborough Historical Society and free and open to the public

August 20, Elihu Burritt Day, books, food, fun, and the best white elephant sale in Southern Berkshire County, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., New Marlborough Village Green; followed by the not-to-be-missed New Marlborough Fire Department Pig Roast, from 5:00 p.m. until the band goes home, at the Firehouse, village of Southfield

August 27, The Naeve Trio, violin, cello, and piano, plays works of Haydn, Dvorak, and Piazzolla, 4:30 p.m., concert in the main hall of the Meeting House, post-concert wine and cheese in the Gallery; \$25, \$20 to members of the New Marlborough Village Association

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A WALK ON THE 'WILD' SIDE

Wild Life Is the Theme of the Next Meeting House Gallery Show

By Pam Stebbins

Unleashed creativity will be on display at the Meeting House Gallery in a wide range of materials, including photography, fabric art, sculpture, painting, folded paper, metal, wood, stone, and, yes, even oil on canvas. Opening July 29, a show of twenty-three Berkshire artists will reveal myriad interpretations of the show's theme, Wild Life. It promises to be fun.

To get an idea of the creative minds contributing to the exhibit, the *5 Village News* visited with two of the artists.

Teresa Bills works with fabrics to create unique quilts inspired by the beauty of the Berkshires and her devotion to animals. She associates her love of fabrics to a small patchwork childhood quilt made by her great grandmother. She had long intended to pursue quilting, but not until she attended a workshop sponsored by the Sandisfield Cultural Council in 1987 did she get the tools and encouragement to embark on this new artistic endeavor.

Teresa, always talented with her hands, cycled over the years through several phases of creativity with fabrics, yarns, and all manner of handicrafts. As her interest in fabric art evolved, she experimented with different instructors and new techniques. Once she was introduced to Ruth McDowell and began learning about the piecing quilt technique, she knew she had found the ideal outlet for her creative energies.

Quilt piecing is a precise art form. As Teresa describes it, the process begins with an image that captures the imagination. A photograph is taken. Then a drawing is made from that photograph, the drawing is drafted into a suitable pattern and the pattern is copied onto freezer paper to make a template. Next fabrics are selected to be cut, numbered, and sewn together in sections following the template. Hundreds of pins are used to join the pieces of fabric together in



Beasts roam the precisely stitched quilts of Teresa Bills. Peter Thorne joins wood to stone to create a starkly unadorned bench.

sections before the final sewing. Only then does the artistic rendering of Teresa's original vision truly emerge.

Teresa plays loud rock music while sewing, which serves as a wild bit of counterpoint to the delicate quilts she produces. She is an active member of the Berkshire Quilters Guild and is preparing for a solo show at the Sandisfield Arts Center weekends from November 5 through November 17.

The tame side of Peter Thorne produces custom cabinets which he designs and makes from local wood. He also designs and fabricates functional furniture such as tables and chairs. The wild side of Peter, however, enjoys combining wood and stone in whimsical ways, some practical, some decorative. This is the side on display in the upcoming show.

Born and raised in North Wales, Peter and his family moved to Great Barrington when he was fourteen. He graduated high school, served in the navy, and found his way to woodworking through two local mentors. Three years experience as a foreman in the reproduction shop of Hancock Shaker Village helped direct his career towards cabinetry.

In keeping with his Shaker training, proportions are important to Peter, whether designing a display case for a Brooklyn clothier or custom cabinets for a Berkshire kitchen. With a reputation as somewhat of a maverick

woodworker, Peter tackles all manner of creative challenges from the people who make their way to his West Stockbridge studio.

An important component of Peter's life involves his commitment to the Berkshires Woodworkers Guild, an organization he helped found twenty years ago

continued on page 17

BIG WHEEL

With Freddie Friedman directing and Blake Ferrara at the controls of Mr. Friedman's powerful Deere 740, a 19th century millstone was lowered into its frame at the back of the Town Hall, a commemorative symbol of the once-vibrant age of mill power in New Marlborough. Rescued by John Sisson from the Konkapot River just upstream of his home, the stone was donated to the New Marlborough Historical Society, which, with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen, installed it.

The key to the installation was provided by Frank Kellogg of Hartsville, who, in collaboration with Historical Society Board member Robin Tost, fabricated the steel I-beam and arc that hold the stone aloft. Mr. Kellogg donated both materials and craftsmanship. The Society's Alan Lombardi worked with Mr. Friedman, who also donated labor and equipment, to set the framework in three-and-a-half feet of cement.

The millstone stands not only as a reminder of our town's industrial past — nineteen mills once lined the shores of the swift-flowing Konkapot River — but the community spirit that energizes the town to this day. □

Joe Poindexter



Top, Freddie Friedman guides the millstone into place. Above, from left, Frank Kellogg, John Sisson, Robin Tost, and Alan Lombardi

ON THE ROAD

The New Marlborough Highway Department has a busy season ahead as it prepares for road paving and repair work which began in June, and drivers should be more than usually alert for road crews. According to Superintendent Chuck Loring, the following are the major projects the Highway Department expects to tackle this summer:

- Replacing the large culvert (many think of it as a bridge) on the Clayton Mill River Road near the old United Nations farm. There will be related work in the same neighborhood regarding drainage and smaller culverts. Final paving of the site will probably not happen before next spring.
- Paving a top coat of asphalt on the recently

renovated section of the Southfield Canaan Road in northern Clayton.

- Paving the portion of the Norfolk Road in Southfield that runs from the steel bridge to the foot of East Hill Road.
- Paving of Corashire Road in Hartsville from Route 57 to the Monterey town line.
- Chip sealing on Hayes Hill and Adsit Crosby Roads.
- Center line painting of all Town roads.

The amount of road paving and reconstruction is severely constrained by the expense of these projects and the relatively paltry state-provided funds necessary to finance this work. □

David Lowman

Wild Life Art Show, continued

to share expertise, tools and business opportunities for local woodworkers. He and other members of the Guild donate a piece of art to a silent auction each year, this year on July 16 and 17 at the Berkshire Botanical Gardens. The funds raised go to a scholarship fund to help promote careers in woodworking and furniture making in local schools.

Other artists included in the Wild Life show are Dominick Avelino, Diane Barth, Erik Callahan, Eugene Cleary, Susan Crofut, Nikki Hayes, Natalie Manzano, Holly McNeely, Mead and Sally Eagle, Brian Mikesell, Matthew Poindexter, Becky Schreiber, Olga Schwede,

Lucinda Shmulsky, Walter Simons, Elizabeth Torsay-Wilson, Robin Tost, Joe Wheaton, Barbara Winters, and Andrew Zdziarski.

Wild Life opens Friday, July 29, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., with a reception with the artists. Anyone who appreciates fine art, and enjoys delicious artist-made hors d'oeuvres is invited to attend. It will run Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., until August 28. The Meeting House Gallery is located on Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green. The exhibition is sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association. □

NEIGHBORS



Congratulations to **Michelle Dawson**, of Clayton, for completing her coursework to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. She will begin coursework in her Respiratory Therapist course in the fall. In the meantime, Michelle continues to serve in New Marlborough's Fire and Rescue as a firefighter, an emergency medical technician (EMT), and as the Infection Control Officer.

And a hearty "Welcome back!" to **Dave Herrick**, who is behind the counter at the Mill River General Store again, after suffering a stroke May 24. He has been tending to business part-time, to accommodate appointments with rehab specialists, but expects, he says, to be back full-time early in July. □



photo by Ed Harvey

Neighbors compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

photo by Don Beauchamp



photo by ed Harvey



photo by ed Harvey



Don Beauchamp, of Clayton reports: "Interesting days in May... I saw a **crow** on the ground, with a male **robin** jumping around behind him. Then crow took off with a baby robin in its mouth. The male robin gave chase, and was joined by two others. Then I saw at least five **vultures** in the top of a hemlock across street. Then a pair of **red-bellied woodpeckers** landed on my platform feeder. Also, I have a pair of **tree swallows** in the second bluebird house, the female nesting while the male sits on an overhead branch. On top of all this, I was able to photograph a **female ruby-throated hummingbird** at the feeder, and then, on a bike ride, a **squirrel** ran across in front of me, being chased by a **brown thrasher**, in turn being chased by a screeching **wren**! Interesting days, and busy!"

Ed Harvey, also of Clayton, has been busy photographing our wildlife denizens, including this personable male **cardinal** perched on his fence rail and a **hairy woodpecker** who seems to have found the mother of all suet balls.

Larry Burke of New Marlborough witnessed a moment similar in poignancy to Don's sighting of the crow and robin: "Driving along North Road on June 10, I spotted two objects in the road ahead. Coming closer, I saw that one was a **cottontail rabbit**, and it was sitting stock still, staring across at the other object, which I quickly realized was a small hawk, most likely a young **Cooper's hawk**. Edging closer, I realized that the hawk was clutching something in its talons... a plump baby rabbit. After only a few seconds, this melancholy stand-off, this tableau of nature's harsh realities, ended as the hawk lifted into the air with its prey, and the mother rabbit slowly turned and disappeared into the tall grass at the road's edge."



photo by Don Beauchamp



photo by Don Beauchamp

Ari Korpivarra, whose home in Southfield overlooks Umpachene River, wrote in with the following: “Early morning on June 4, after a night of foraging, a doe stepped off the opposite bank into the river and stopped. A second later a fawn, all freckles and empty stomach, awkwardly hopped into the river from the bushes on our side and splashed across eagerly to start feeding. (Q: Why did the mother nurse the baby in the cold water? A: To keep the milk from spoiling.) Cars rattled across the bridge without disturbing breakfast. After ten minutes the fawn was full. Then, with flicking tongue, the mother groomed her baby, messy from long hours of hiding out. The fawn, taking short, unsteady steps, explored the riverbanks. Slowly, mother and child disappeared up river. An hour had passed. The latest episode of our very own nature TV was over.”



photo by Ari Korpivarra

Dan Doern of Mill River writes: Our **robin** laid eggs (see last month’s NM5VN for more of the robin’s story), and has been sitting on them. Also, I came upon a **snapping turtle** digging a nest right by the side of County Road on Memorial Day weekend.” There have been numerous sightings of snappers seeking out their favorite spots to deposit their eggs. **Carrie Burke** came upon one by the Flying Cloud pond that measured 35 inches from stem to stern.



photo by Carrie Burke

Tara White of Southfield observes: “We are so lucky to live where there is

such a diverse animal and bird population. In early June, I not only saw the usual **turkeys, rabbits, porcupines** and **deer**, but the hatching of hundreds of **dragon flies** in the field, three **bear** sightings (the last one taking the hummingbird feeder), a pair of **piledated woodpeckers** and a **snake** that was most likely a northern black racer. The snake was a half-dollar size in girth and twenty or more inches in length. Used a long stick to coax him out of the road so he wouldn’t get run over. A moment later, when a car did go by, he raised his head and struck out at the car tire.”

On the subject of **bear** sightings, East Hill Road resident **Joe Poindexter** confesses: “Yes, we know, it’s not a great idea to put out sunflower seed in the summer, but the only cost is having to straighten the feeder pole. The bear (pictured here on June 1) seems to understand that if it destroys the feeder, there will be nothing to refill for its next visit.” □



photo by Joe Poindexter

Compiled by Larry Burke, lburke2@me.com

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LAND TRUST NEWS

The Land Trust makes serious fun out of exploring the woods of New Marlborough! In late May the Land Trust met for its monthly hike and led a group of twelve along the trail to East Indies Pond, a pristine body of water accessible only by foot. When we arrived, Gary Cookson, whose family donated the land surrounding the pond to the state, regaled the group with stories of what he and his father discovered in nearby Wolf Swamp during childhood outings in the 1960s. His warning to the group: Don't go it alone into Wolf Swamp.

In early June, six hearty volunteers joined three interns from Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) to build a two-mile loop trail at BNRC's Steepletop Preserve off North Road. The rain forecasted for late afternoon arrived early, but the crew persisted.

They cleared debris left by loggers, raked level sections of the trail to promote water runoff, and managed to leave with smiles on their faces. Some final touches to the trail and trail signage will be completed shortly, and the new loop will be accessible for all to enjoy and explore — a wonderful addition to the special places here in New Marlborough.

Martha Bryan



Gary Cookson, far right, told the visitors to East Indies Pond about childhood hikes in the area.



Illustrations by Ann Getsinger



A trail crew at Steepletop was undaunted by the rain.

Photos by Martha Bryan



ALL THINGS GREAT AND SMALL

I captured these images, perhaps the alpha and omega of New Marlborough fauna, by remembering to take along a camera whenever I venture out — the hummer just out the back door; the bull in a field near Pinnacle Farm on the Hartsville New Marlborough Road. —Erik Callahan

Readers can find more of Erik Callahan's bird photos — in brilliant color — on his website, erikmichaelcallahan.wordpress.com, by clicking on "The Birds of New Marlborough" under the Recent Works tab.



THE LOG

POLICE DEPARTMENT (SELECTED ENTRIES)

- May 2 12:27 a.m. Officer liberates a dog that has been locked inside a Clayton Road resident's car — along with her car keys.
- May 3 7:10 a.m. Tree down on electric wires on the Clayton Mill River Road. National Grid is notified.
- May 4 4:21 p.m. Clayton Mill River Road resident complains that neighbors, driving a four-wheeler, are trespassing on his property.
- May 5 1:00 p.m. Clayton Road resident reports that cows are making regular visits to the back of her property — and notes that nearby neighbors have recently purchased cows and chickens. The animal inspector is notified.
- 2:22 p.m. Foley Hill Road resident complains that a strange woman, claiming to have been sent by a bank to photograph his house, refused to identify the bank and then quickly drove off in her car.
- 2:30 p.m. Animal control officer, summoned when two bulldogs are reported loose in the area of a Shunpike Road residence, deems that the report is unfounded.
- May 7 2:04 p.m. Jeep Laredo on East Hill Road is opened after the driver locked herself out.
- 10:44 pm. Two males, under 21 years of age, "proned out on the ground" (according to the Police Log) near a logging road off Foley Hill Road, were issued citations and told to leave.
- May 8 5:47 p.m. South Sandisfield Road resident reports drag racing past his house, with vehicles reaching speeds in excess of 80 m.p.h.
- May 13 5:13 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road resident asks for radar to slow cars speeding past her house between the hours of 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- May 16 4:50 p.m. Large tree reported down on Corashire Road is removed by the tree warden.
- 3:41 p.m. Resident reports wires down near his house on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- May 18 7:00 p.m. Driver reports hitting a deer on South Sandisfield Road.
- May 19 1:01 p.m. Foley Hill Road resident complains of "recurring civil issues" with his former wife's current boyfriend.
- May 20 1:00 p.m. Lumbert Cross Road resident requests assistance regarding "issues with her former husband."
- May 21 9:49 a.m. Hartsville Mill River Road resident, having found a wallet, containing \$300, in the road near her house, asks an officer to assist in returning it to its owner.
- May 23 11:00 a.m. Injured black Labrador retriever, phoned in by a driver on New Marlborough Hill Road, is retrieved by its owner.
- 7:31 p.m. Downed tree blocks Hartsville New Marlborough Road
- May 25 10:11 a.m. Apparent vandalism of mailboxes on Canaan Valley Road is determined to have been caused by a truck accidentally backing into them.
- 4:00 p.m. National Grid is notified after a caller at the New Marlborough Town Library reports wires down and a tree blocking Clayton Mill River Road.
- May 26 10:00 p.m. Driver reports hitting a deer on Brewer Hill Road.



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THE LOG: FIRE AND RESCUE

May 2	11:46 a.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call	May 27	11:40 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
May 3	1:52 a.m.	Red Fox Road Medical Call	May 27	12:10 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
May 3	5:17 p.m.	Foley Hill Road Chimney Fire	May 29	5:18 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
May 8	2:38 p.m.	Knight Road Medical Call			
May 15	1:15 p.m.	New Marlborough Southfield Road Fire Alarm			
May 24	4:15 p.m.	Hartsville Mill River Road Power Line Down			

Free 911 Signs Available: A clearly visible 911 number, posted at the end of the driveway and visible from both approaches to the home, is important to providing a timely response in the event of an emergency. All residents should have one, and, due to a generous donation from the Kiwanis Club of Sheffield, 911 signs are still available to New Marlborough residents free of charge. If you don't have one, it can be ordered through David Herrick at the Mill River General Store. And, if you need help with installation, simply mention it to David. We'll take care of it from there. □

David Smith

COUNCIL ON AGING NEWS

The Council on Aging has a lot to offer New Marlborough seniors. As announced by the Council's Prue Spaulding at its May 26 Spring Luncheon (provided by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's Culinary Department and serenaded by the District's madrigal singing group), the following programs will again be available this year:

- The Sheffield Food Pantry distributes food Monday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- St. Joseph's Church in Canaan distributes food on the third Thursday of the month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Great Barrington
- The Massachusetts Food Bank comes to the Community Health Program in Great Barrington on the first Tuesday of the month from noon to 1:00 p.m.
- The Claire Teague Senior Center in Great Barrington makes food available to those included in the Fuel Assistance program on the second Wednesday of the month.
- Seniors are welcome at the Wellness Swim Program, which is held at the Kilpatrick Athletic Center, Simon's Rock, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to noon. The cost, thanks to a grant secured by Mrs. Spaulding, is just \$3 per session.



From left, Merry Abolafia, Joan Pierro, and Carol Majkowski

- The Southern Berkshire Elderly Transport Corporation continues to offer disabled residents rides from home to doctor appointments, banking, or shopping. The service, available four days a week, can be reserved by calling (413) 528-4773.
- The Council is hoping to be able to subsidize an exercise program for seniors, to be conducted by licensed massage therapist Elaine Mack.

A summer luncheon is being planned for August. □

Joe Poindexter

Thank You to Our Contributors!

Anthony & Marjorie Consolini; Eugene & Elizabeth Rosenberg; Richard Dupuis;
Lisa & Tony Nasch; Janet Brown, and Anita E. Matthews

A Celebration and a Farewell

With a procession, a pot-luck picnic dinner, and the praises of their teacher and their principal, New Marlborough Central fourth-graders stepped into the world of higher (fifth grade at Mount Everett) education. Graduation day, June 9, was filled with camaraderie as the graduates received accolades from Tom Masters, their teacher and MC for the night, as well as from Stacy Burgess, the principal. The evening included the awarding of six PTA Scholarships to Mount Everett college-bound students — including Chelsea Eichstedt, Lauren Scapin, and Samantha Twing — who had attended New Marlborough Central.



Finally the evening turned to a special recognition and thanks to Francine Groener for her twenty-five years of service to the school. She is retiring from positions as both building leader and a beloved pre-school teacher. It was an emotional farewell to a wonderful educator. □

Jane Burke



Left, Francine Groener (with bouquet) is honored for her twenty-five years of service. Above, Samantha Twing, college-bound, receives a PTA scholarship.



Gedney Farmers' Market



When:

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

Where:

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

What:

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

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



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

A Creative Finale for the School Year

New Marlborough Meeting House was filled to capacity on the evening of June 7 for the performance of *Much Ado About Life Cycles*, the latest collaborative effort between New Marlborough Central School and Flying Cloud Institute to help students master science ideas through creating and performing in a theatrical interpretation of their findings. Students and teachers worked with Kristen Sparhawk over a period of eight weeks. Third- and fourth-graders built their act about the life cycle of man around a Shakespearean soliloquy.

Kindergarteners put together a delightful portrayal of the life cycle of the chicken, including the development of the egg. First graders sang their Xylem and Phloem song in a dramatization of the life of trees from seed to decomposition. Second and third graders dramatized creatures that live in vernal pools. Major support of the residency came from the STARS grant program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the New Marlborough Cultural Council. □

Jane Burke



Kindergarten chickens lift their feathers to reveal their yokes of various colors to the great amusement of the audience.



The goings on at the vernal pool included second and third graders costumed as the spotted salamanders, green frogs, red efts, and toads they had studied.

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The City of Mirrors, by Justin Cronin
The Last Painting of Sara De Vos, by Dominic Smith
The Summer Guest, by Alison Anderson
A Hero of France, by Alan Furst
The Emperor's Revenge, by Clive Cussler
End of Watch, by Stephen Kin

Adult Nonfiction

Hot Art: Chasing Thieves and Detectives Through the Secret World of Stolen Art, by Joshua Knelman
The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration, by Isabel Wilkerson

Children's Fiction

The White Cat and the Monk, by Jo Ellen Bogart
Field-Trip Fiasco, by Julie Danneburg
Fibonacci Zoo, by Tom Robinson
Lost for Words, by Natalie Russell
The Very Grumpy Day, by Stella J Jones

Children's Nonfiction

One Giant Leap, by Robert Burleigh
Magic School Bus and The Climate Change, by Joanna Cole



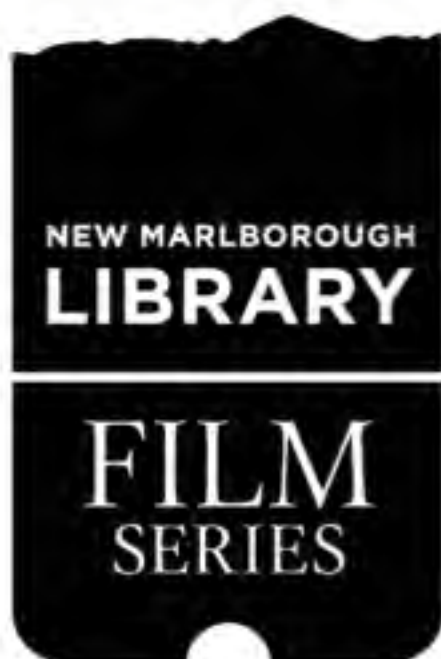
Library Summer Hours

Mon. Wed. Sat.
 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tues. Fri.
 1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Thurs.
 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

BOOK COLLECTION

For its annual Elihu Burritt Day book sale, New Marlborough Friends of the Library will be collecting books at the Town Hall in Mill River on July 9 and July 16 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Do not leave books at Town Hall at any other time, and please do not bring books to the library! No Text Books, Encyclopedias, or Magazines. Please only books in good resalable condition.

(413) 229-2544
 Free Estimates



The New Marlborough Library Film Series continues July 26 with: **A Small Good Thing**, by director Pamela Tanner Boll.

A Small Good Thing is a feature-length documentary set in western Massachusetts in the Berkshires that tells the story of six people moving away from a philosophy of "more is better" toward a more holistic conception of well-being, one based on a close connection to themselves, their families, the natural world, and to the greater good.

Light refreshments at 7:30 p.m., the film starts at 8:00 p.m.

Seating is limited — please RSVP to newmarlborough@gmail.com or call 413-229-6668.

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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Town Times

- ✦ **Board of Selectmen:** Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- ✦ **Town Administrator:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- ✦ **Planning Board:** Second and fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- ✦ **Board of Health:** First Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- ✦ **Conservation Commission:** Last Saturday of the month at 9 a.m.
- ✦ **Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- ✦ **Fire Department training:** Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- ✦ **Building Inspector:** Monday 5 - 7 p.m., Wednesday 8 - 10 a.m.
- ✦ **First Responders:** meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- ✦ **Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m. at the library
- ✦ **Post Office:** Mill River Window: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Southfield Window: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
(The Southfield PO lobby is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- ✦ **Town Treasurer:** Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- ✦ **Tax Collector:** Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ✦ **Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- ✦ **Dog and Animal Control Officer:** John Springstube 413-232-7038
- ✦ **Town Clerk:** 229-8278; 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment
- ✦ **Town Hall:** 229-8116
- ✦ **Police:** Business office: 229-8161

Transfer Station Hours:

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

PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

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We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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The next issue will be dated August 2016.
All copy must be submitted no later than July 17.
For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
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- ♦ **Dellea:** Dellea.biz provides on-site Windows computer services to local residents, small businesses, town governments, and nonprofits throughout southern Berkshire County. (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.
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- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Project Bee** meets on the last Saturday of every month from 10:30 until noon at the New Marlborough Library in Mill River. See www.projectbeeline.org or Project Bee on Facebook.
- ♦ **James Edelman:** General Contractor, Real Estate Sales. Best Results. Construction License #090773. Home Improvement Registration #152035. Real Estate Sales License #9086247. 413-528-0006 or cljvedelman@aol.com
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- ♦ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450
- ♦ **Ter Mar Triangle Farm:** 106 Sandy Brook Turnpike (Rte 183), Sandisfield; 413-258-2898; fruits and vegetables in season; pork; jam; eggs; honey; sawmill; kiln milling; firewood
- ♦ **Woodruff Mountain Landscaping:** Excavation and landscape contracting, all forms of stone work and masonry, and outdoor services, including lawn mowing and yard work. 413-229-2919 woodruffmountain@aol.com

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