



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

A few weeks ago, Berkshire historian Bernard Drew, relieving the lock-down blues with his wife, Donna, took a walk in the New Marlboro Preserve. After they had reached Willow Creek within the Preserve, Mr. Drew spied a rock wall that piqued his curiosity. The historian in him would not let it rest there. His account of his hike into New Marlborough's past, published in the May 27 edition of the Berkshire Eagle, is, with the kind permission of the Eagle, excerpted here.

A CHEESE FACTORY IN NEW MARLBOROUGH

by Bernard Drew

Entering the trailhead of the New Marlboro Preserve, a property of the New Marlborough Land Trust, at the intersection of Routes 183 and 57 below Gedney Farm, we skirted an increasingly steep Willow Creek ravine. I admired the exposed ledge on the opposite stream bank. Then my eye caught a formation on our side. It was obviously a human-built wall. A water containment meant some sort of industry downstream. Sure enough, as we continued, another stone construction appeared on the opposite bank, but this time on flatter ground. A second containment. The steepness of the banks and the width of the river discouraged our crossing to examine it closer. But there was no obvious road access to the stream from the nearby road and no flat area appropriate for a large building. The factory must have been further downstream.



A detail of the 1876 Berkshire County Atlas map, revealing the location of the cheese factory

I wanted to learn more. With local libraries closed, I had to resort to the internet and my own bookshelves. Immediately, a surprise: A map in the *Beers Berkshire County Atlas of 1876* identified that what I had surmised was a seasonal sawmill was, in fact, a cheese factory. (*The Beers atlas places the cheese factory midway between The Farm New Marlborough and the bridge that crosses the Umpachene to Southfield village. Eds.*)

On April 16, 1868, *The Pittsfield Sun* gave this story: "The farmers of New Marlboro have formed a joint stock company and are erecting a cheese factory on the farm of Wesley Hall on the road between the villages of New Marlboro and Sandisfield [Southfield]. The building is 90 feet long and will have about 600 cow-power, and is to be ready to run the coming summer.

"Sheldon Wright [who owned a store and hotel in Southfield] is president of the company, and Cyrus Hartwell [who owned the adjacent farm to the north] is to superintend the business. Factory cheese, being always well made and of a uniform grade, finds a readier market than little dabs of the homemade article, and the

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Cheese Factory, continued

farmers of New Marlboro wisely adopt the factory plan.”

It must have taken some effort and expense to put up the dam and build the cheesery. And the enterprise survived at least one misstep. “One of the milk vats at the New Marlboro cheese factory gave way on Monday, precipitating the milk into the cellar in a condition quite unfavorable for cheese making,” the *Berkshire County Eagle* said July 9, 1868, but added that “the cheese factory is very prosperous, this trifling accident excepted. It is receiving between 6,000 and 7,000 pounds of milk and turning out upwards of 1,200 pounds of cheese daily. The cheeses weigh about 60 pounds apiece.”

The August 13, 1868, edition of the *Eagle* reported that “from May 26 to June 25, inclusive, there were received at the New Marlboro cheese factory, 149,586 pounds of milk, from which were manufactured 14,397 pounds of cheese, which was sold at 14 cents per pound. Lorin P. Keyes of Southfield netted \$147 from a dairy of fourteen cows, as his share of the profits.” That would be \$1,818 in today’s dollars. The factory operated seasonally, beginning each April and closing before winter.

The last mention I found in the papers was in 1882.



The remains of a containment dam along Willow Creek

photo by Bernard Drew

If you’re wondering why a cheese factory needed waterpower, an answer is found in the November 1865 *American Agriculturist*, which pointed out that the typical factory would contain curd vats, press room, and curing house. “The vats are usually about 15 feet long by 3-1/2 in width, and are arranged conveniently near a window on one side of the factory, to which the milk wagons can approach on a raised roadway. At this window is a large can upon a platform scales,” the *Agriculturist* said.

“The vats are arranged so as to allow a stream of cold water to flow around each, which keeps the night’s milk cool until morning, and after the addition of the morning’s milk, the cold water being

shut off, the steam is let on, which rapidly raises the temperature of the water on the outside of the vats, and of the milk itself to the point deemed most desirable for the addition of the rennet.”

More research is needed to complete the story of New Marlborough’s foray into cheese-making, but our walk was a start. Fresh air and recreation will be found on the trails of Berkshire County, but also, hidden away at times, bits of the county’s history. □



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VIEW FROM THE BOARD

Almost a Decade of Meetings — Was It Worth It?

After a little over nine years as a selectman, I decided not to seek reelection. In looking back, I asked myself, was it worth it?

I can think of about 2,300 reasons why not. That, approximately, is the number of hours spent at Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, School Committee, School Finance Committee and Superintendent Round Table meetings. It includes almost daily appearances at Town Hall and countless telephone calls. It does not include discussions at the Post Office, General Store or even the supermarkets with residents who have questions, complaints or concerns. I tried to develop a thick skin and hold my tongue when faced with disagreement, loudly expressed at times, with positions I took. Unless you own your own business, serving as selectman is not for someone with a full-time job. You are always on call.

Against all of this are more than 2,500 reasons why it was worth it. That is the approximate number of people, full and part time, living here. When I meet neighbors who express their heartfelt appreciation, I believe that my efforts have contributed to making our town a wonderful place to live.

A few years ago, my wife required serious surgery. After I brought her home, people I hardly knew stopped by to inquire about her health. Many asked me to “tell Louise we are praying for her.” One evening there was a knock on the door. It was Mike Smith from Gedney Farm. He carried a big tray covered with beautifully plated dishes of our favorite food. “I thought you and Louise could use a good meal,” he said.

Board meetings sometimes resulted in unexpected outcomes. Recently, a local property owner asked the Board for a special permit to erect a business sign on his property. Abutters were notified and on the night of the public hearing, three or four of them appeared. Calmly, they expressed their view that the proposed sign would change the appearance and character of their neighborhood. The property owner listened attentively and said nothing until the abutters concluded. He then

said, “I had no idea you would feel this way. I withdraw my petition.” The abutters walked over to their neighbor, thanked him, shook his hand, and all walked out together. The three Board members were left smiling.

Occasionally, an action by the Board could produce more than smiles. Several years ago, Tara White, Michele Shalaby, and I, the three selectmen at the time, filled out the paperwork for a long-shot, million-dollar grant to resurface the Clayton Mill River Road. We managed to get letters of support from Senators Warren and Kerry, but our consultant said we had no chance because the Town had received a \$500,000 grant the previous year to replace a bridge on the Canaan Southfield Road. Nevertheless, we attended the announcement of the grant award, which was made on the steps of the Great Barrington Town Hall. Tara, Michele and I stood together on the lawn, nervously chatting about everything but our chances. Then came the announcement: “And, \$1 million to the Town of New Marlborough to replace a portion of the Clayton Mill River Road.” As the three of us jumped up and down, cheering and high-fiving each other, the crowd around us laughed and applauded.

Typically, Board meetings are sparsely attended, but one April evening a few years ago, the Town Hall door opened and one person after another entered. I couldn't imagine why they were there, and then it dawned on me. The April issue of the *5 Village News* had published an article saying that the residents of Clayton had petitioned the Board to secede from New Marlborough to become part of Sheffield. I asked the group if they all lived in Clayton. They did. I told them the article was an April Fool's joke. They wouldn't believe me until I showed them the agenda which had no mention of a petition to secede. They still stayed for a while to be certain and finally left. They weren't laughing, but I admit I was.

So, was service on the Board of Selectmen worth it? You bet it was! Now I've got to find something else to keep me occupied. Any suggestions? □

Nat Yohalem

THE 2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

At its June 29 meeting, the Board of Selectmen planned to revisit the scheduling of the Annual Town Meeting, which, the week before, had voted to hold it on July 25. In recognition of the potential difficulty of creating a budget that could be printed and promulgated two weeks ahead of the meeting, the Board purportedly now plans to propose holding the meeting on August 15, with rain dates of August 22 and 29.

Whichever date is finally chosen, the meeting, to allow for social distancing, will be held outdoors in the field behind New Marlborough Central School and will begin at 9:00 a.m.

The Cultural Council, meanwhile, has regretfully canceled Burrirt Day 2020. “We have made this decision,” says Cultural Council Chair Nancy Barbe, “mindful of what is best for the health and welfare of our community. Save the date for Burrirt Day 2021, August 21, 2021.”

Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



May 18: With all three selectmen, plus Town Administrator Mari Enoch and Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck present by phone, the meeting got underway with confirmation that Town employees were adhering to social-distancing and face-mask protocols.

In a clarification of the cost of operating the three internet hotspots around town, Ms. Enoch said that if one or more of the hotspots showed reduced usage, the Town could elect to downgrade and pay a lesser fee, rather than turning off the hotspot service altogether. At the same time, however, she was confident that the cost of operating the hotspots (\$1,460 per month per hotspot, \$2,920 for two hotspots — the third is paid for by the state) would be reimbursed by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a \$2-trillion federal relief program signed into law March 27. A question as to which, if any, of the hotspots to downgrade or turn off was postponed until current information as to volume of usage could be gathered.

The selectmen approved a contract with National Grid that allows for the purchase of aggregated electrical power from Colonial Power.

The meeting then moved on to the thorny problem of fashioning an FY21 budget. The sticking point: as yet, an uncertain school budget. **With Chairman Nat Yohalem pointing out that the Annual Town Meeting would need to be postponed because of school budget uncertainties, Richard Long urged his fellow selectmen to focus on a strategy of forming a conservative budget that minimized capital spending and preserved Free Cash and the Stabilization Fund.** Tara White requested that the Finance Committee continue working on a budget, “so that we will have

something to work against,” when the school district assessment and state aid figures are put forth.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Yohalem moved that the Town go to a month-to-month budget, based on FY20 expenditures, beginning July 1 and continuing until such time as an FY21 budget is adopted. The motion was approved.

Ms. White reported that a task force was looking into the logistics of holding the Annual Town Meeting outdoors. The selectmen asked Ms. Fleck to double-check her understanding that the state would prohibit annual meetings from being conducted outdoors.

Ms. Enoch updated the Board on the schedule for the repair of three bridges: one on Lumbert Cross Road, one on Canaan Southfield Road, and the so-called steel bridge at the north end of Norfolk Road. The Lumbert Cross and Canaan Southfield bridges, scheduled to go out for bid May '21, will be tackled first, said Ms. Enoch, so that detours will be in place when the steel bridge is closed for repair.

Once more addressing the CARES program, Ms. Enoch said that it was unclear whether this reimbursement could be used to replace anticipated losses in state aid. She also said it will be necessary for department heads to keep detailed records of coronavirus-related expenditures, so as to apply for CARES reimbursement.

A final Town Administrator update dealt with the challenge posed to emergency vehicles by the narrow width of Downs Road, a private way in the Lake Buel section of town. Exacerbated by the lack of access to fire trucks, a home burned to the ground there on May 6. The issue has been raised, to no avail, with Downs Road

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe Street, Suite 1 Telephone: (413) 528-4300
Great Barrington, MA 01230 Facsimile: (413) 528-4306
email: ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com

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residents in the past, said Ms. White. Nevertheless, said Mr. Yohalem, the Town needs to go on record with a letter to the Lake Buel District stating its concern that the road be widened and tree branches cleared so as to allow passage by fire trucks. Ms. Enoch said she would forward a Fire Department letter to the Lake Buel District and ask that it be distributed to the members of that group.

Finally, Ms. Fleck expressed frustration with the process of vetting and correcting minutes from Board meetings. Currently, Ms. Fleck's draft of the minutes goes to each of the selectmen and to the town administrator. As corrections come back to her, Ms. Fleck records the changes, but in all too many instances, she will then receive a major rewrite from Ms. Enoch. This requires Ms. Fleck to begin anew, merging the earlier corrections with the rewrite. "Rewriting them three or four times is frankly overwhelming," said Ms. Fleck. Ms. Enoch pointed out that the minutes were the official record of the proceedings of a meeting and needed to be accurate. Mr. Yohalem's suggested that Ms. Enoch make her changes on a draft of the minutes that contained the changes made by the selectmen.

And with that, the meeting adjourned.

*"So we'll need to come up with a set of rules governing the inside balloting, such as how many people will be allowed into the polling place at the same time and the sanitation measures that will be required."
- Richard Long*

Joe Poindexter

May 26: With the meeting called to order at 6:21 p.m. and all three members participating by phone, the Board's first order of business was to revisit the question of when and how to hold Annual Town Meeting, currently scheduled for June 22.


The Board discussed the issue with Town Moderator Barry Shapiro, who was on the call, and, with his concurrence, voted to delay the Annual Town Meeting to a date and time to be determined, probably in the July-August timeframe, according to Chairman Nat Yohalem.

As to location, Mr. Shapiro said, based on meetings he's been holding with Town officials and department heads and also with members of the Massachusetts Moderators Association, his recommendation is to hold the meeting outdoors, and he said he'll be ready in the next few weeks with recommendations on the mechanics for conducting the meeting "in a way in which everyone can participate while still keeping safe."

For his part, Chairman Yohalem said he could envision holding the meeting either in the field at New Marlborough Central School or in the parking lot at the Mount Everett campus in Sheffield, but that determination, the Board decided, would be made at a later date.

Moving on, the Board met with Planning Board member Mark Carson and Erin Rodgers, Western New England project coordinator of Trout Unlimited, a conservation group dedicated to preserving North America's cold water fisheries and watersheds, to discuss a proposed project to stabilize the Konkapot riverbank just east of the Hartsville Mill River Road bridge in Hartsville. As Mr. Carson explained it, there's been significant erosion of the bank going back several years such that tens of thousands of cubic yards of sediment have been deposited into the river, endangering a number of sensitive natural wildlife habitats. He said that several years ago he contacted Ms. Rodgers about the problem and that, following several site visits, she now has a plan for dealing with it.

As she explained, Trout Unlimited commissioned an engineering survey of the site about a year ago and that in turn led to the development of an engineering plan to counteract the soil erosion and stabilize the bank. The next step, she said, would be to go through the permitting process and then start the remediation



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work. To pay for all this she's applied for a \$28,000 river restoration grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, but she needs a letter of support from the Town to go with the grant application. She provided the Board with a template of what the letter should cover, which the Board reviewed and turned over to Town Administrator Mari Enoch to prepare and sign.

Under Covid-19 updates, Selectman Long asked about the status of the Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) study and whether the state has granted the Town an extension of the June 30 deadline. Ms. Enoch confirmed that the state has in fact granted the extension after previously turning it down, and that it's good for a full year until June 2021, although she estimates the Town really only needs an extra four to six weeks to complete the plan. As previously reported, the Town received a \$20,000 grant to prepare the plan, using BSC Group as the contractor. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, she said BSC has worked out some creative ways of completing the work by, for example, putting up a website and conducting surveys and video presentations instead of holding live meetings and workshops with Town employees and other stakeholders. (For more on the MVP study, see page 15.)

Separately, **Mr. Long suggested the Town start its planning now for holding Town elections, previously rescheduled for June 29, and then volunteered to work with Town Clerk Kathy Chretien on the details.** He said that, under the law, towns are required to hold inside voting, even while they're encouraging people to use absentee ballots. "So we'll need to come up with a set of rules governing the inside balloting, such as how many people will be allowed into the polling place at the same time and the sanitation measures that will be required." Mr. Yohalem asked Ms. Enoch to add that

The Board finally voted to extend the WiFi hotspots at the library, the fire station and Town Hall through the month of July, even though by then, as it was noted, school would be out.

as an item to next week's agenda, and asked that the Town Clerk Kathy Chretien call into the meeting for the discussion.

And finally under Covid-19 updates, Ms. Enoch said that as businesses start to open, and this would also apply to the Town offices, they must self-certify that they're complying with all the safety measures designed to protect their employees and eventually the public. She said at this point the library will be doing its own plan and probably the Fire Department as well, and for the rest, she'll put together plans for Town Hall, the Highway and Police Departments, and the transfer station. However, Mr. Yohalem suggested instead that perhaps Highway, the Police, and Freddy Friedman for the Transfer Station should prepare their own plans and submit them to Ms. Enoch for review while she focuses on the Town Hall plan.

There was also discussion of installing an intercom system with video monitors at Town Hall to control access by the public. The request, Ms. Enoch said, is coming from some of the Town Hall staffers, but the idea was quickly tabled as the Board didn't see any real need for it. It was suggested instead that it would be much more effective, at least for the time being, to have people make appointments in advance to meet with Town Hall personnel. In addition, Mr. Long said he "didn't like the message it would send to townspeople that our door is going to be closed all the time."

Following a lengthy discussion on the subject, **the Board finally voted to extend the WiFi hotspots at the library, the fire station and Town Hall through the month of July, even though by then, as it was noted, school would be out.** Carrying the day was Ms. Enoch's argument that the money for the hotspots – about \$3,000 per month – is reimbursable under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security



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(CARES) Act grant, which the Town received in the amount of \$128,000, and she added that it was her impression that the reimbursements will be forthcoming fairly quickly.

The Board then heard from Tom Stalker, representing the Farmers Market, who was seeking Board permission to open the market on Sunday, May 31, on the Village Green. The hours, as they were last year, would be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and the market would continue on Sundays through September. He said vendors will be observing all the Covid-19 restrictions, including wearing masks and gloves, that there will be plenty of space between the tables for social distancing, and that the area would be cordoned off on the sides so there will be only one entry and exist point. He said customers will also be required to wear masks, that no food will be cooked and that all food products for sale, except the fresh produce, would be wrapped. And with that the Board agreed to let the market open.

And finally, Police Chief Graham Frank has notified the Board he is not interested in serving as the Town's animal control officer for another year. He's been serving in the position on a temporary basis since July of last year and is asking the Board that he be compensated for it at the rate that was budgeted, which is \$3,700 for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

According to Mr. Yohalem, Chief Frank has indicated he will continue in the job through June 30, but would like the Board to find someone else to fill the position thereafter.

The Board then reviewed and approved three sets of minutes from the May 4, May 11, and May 18 meetings, and adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Peter Schuyten

Ms. White once again favored pulling together a budget with whatever numbers were available to provide a benchmark for when the school budget was announced.

June 1: Plans for the June 29 Town Election were firmed up with the selectmen voting affirmatively to shorten election day to four hours, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Chairman Yohalem congratulated Town Clerk Kathy Chretien on her clear letter of instructions accompanying a recently distributed mail-in ballot. (Election results, which arrived too late to be included in this issue, will be published in the August issue of the 5 Village News.)

Town Administrator Mari Enoch revealed that the Fire Department has applied for CARES reimbursement for a sprayer to disinfect its equipment between uses. In response to a request by Mr. Yohalem to review the cost of the sprayer with Ms. Enoch, the other two selectmen said they would like to participate in the review, which led to the scheduling of a formal Board

meeting at 10:00 a.m., June 5.

The Board postponed until its June 8 meeting the appointment of an Emergency Management manager to replace Ed Harvey, who has resigned the position. Mr. Yohalem stated his intention to refer a formal request from five employees of the Highway Department to join a union to Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard. Tara White and Richard Long, who have conducted interviews with two applicants for Town treasurer, said they would delay a decision on their choice in the event other applicants were to come forward.

Mr. Yohalem, noting the possibility of grant money from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, said that he believed Sheffield may have received an Agriculture Department grant for a police cruiser and that he would check with Sheffield Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard. He then asked about the status of a written coronavirus safety plan for Town employees.

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Ms. Enoch replied that she was putting together a plan and that it would include consideration of such matters as plexiglass safety barriers, disinfectant supplies, and the staggering of work times. The plan needs to be in place, said Mr. Yohalem, by July 1.

Tara White reported that a committee of the Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills Regional School Districts had, through the use of a \$50,000 grant, identified a facilitator, a consultant, and a project manager to map out a potential consolidation of the two districts.

The Board once again expressed its frustration with the conundrum of developing an FY21 budget without an assessment from the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Mr. Long suggested looking at the potential impacts of various levels of reduction in state aid. Ms. White once again favored pulling together a budget with whatever numbers were available to provide a benchmark for when the school budget was announced. "I would like to have a number," she said, "that tells us whether we are above or below the levy limit."

At this point, Finance Committee Chairman Steve Klein, present at the teleconference, asked to be recognized. His committee, he said, had gone through this process. "We anticipated a number of impacts associated with Covid-19. We have already assumed the downside in which the Town lost state aid and excise tax revenue.... We are standing by to see how large a problem will be created by the school budget." With Mr. Yohalem adding that by trying to put down hard numbers before a school budget was presented "we are spinning our wheels," the exercise was once again postponed and the meeting adjourned.

June 5: At a special Friday morning meeting called

With Mr. Yohalem adding that by trying to put down hard numbers before a school budget was presented "we are spinning our wheels," the exercise was once again postponed and the meeting adjourned.

to clear up procedures for CARES reimbursement, the Board authorized Town Administrator Mari Enoch to apply for a reimbursement of \$16,858 to cover coronavirus-related expenses incurred in FY20, including the cost of a Highway Department sprayer.

Mr. Yohalem, present at a June 3 school superintendent teleconference, reported the now-familiar refrain that the state had still not provided information on the amount of its funding to the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and that the District was thereby handcuffed in its ability to produce a budget. Superintendent Beth Regulbuto announced that, for the coming school year, the District would not replace teachers who had resigned or been laid off.

Despite a recommendation from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to proceed with the budgeting process using the current year's figures – one that the other four towns in the district were heeding – the Board decided once again to postpone action on the FY21 budget.

Joe Poindexter

June 8: After determining there were no immediate Covid-19 pandemic issues that needed to be dealt with, the Board with all three members on the phone, voted to offer the position of Town Treasurer to Robert G. (Bob) Noonan, a retired resident of South Egremont. (According to Selectman Richard Long, a second candidate for the job, Tax Collector Gina Campbell, withdrew from consideration because of salary issues.)

Mr. Noonan has an extensive background in tax planning, accounting, and financial reporting, having spent the bulk of his career working in a number of service industries, including assisted-living and nursing home management, real estate and property

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development, and portfolio management, according to his resume. According to Mr. Long, Mr. Noonan's employment is set to begin on Monday, June 15, and is conditioned on his being bonded and passing a standard background check.

Next, the Board set a hearing date regarding a dog-bite incident that took place on the Hartsville Mill River Road on May 30. The Board received a letter of complaint from Denise Ulick of Lenox, who was in town that day walking her dog on a leash, when a large white dog belonging to Jonathan and Samantha Suters of 12 Hartsville Mill River Road charged out of a driveway and attacked it. According to Ms. Ulick's letter, her dog, Viola, a two-and-a-half-year-old, twelve-pound dachshund, "was horribly mutilated," and there's still some question as to whether it will survive.

According to Animal Inspector Prue Spaulding, this is not the first biting incident involving the Suters' dog, Luna. There were two earlier incidents, both in Great Barrington, where the Suters had to pay \$50 fines and veterinary bills associated with each attack. The hearing, which is set for Tuesday, June 23, at 2:00 p.m. via conference call, is to determine whether the dog is to be classified as a nuisance dog or a dangerous dog.

Moving on, the Board voted to extend the duration of the human resources contract with the Collins Center of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, to December 31. **The Collins Center and its consultant Mary Aicardi were hired last fall to perform a wage and classification study for some twenty Town positions, and to develop employee policies and procedures for benefits, leave administration, and performance evaluations.** The original deadline was June 30. But Town Administrator Enoch said she was contacted by Ms. Aicardi, who told her the work won't

be completed on time and requested that the deadline be extended to the end of the year.

According to Mr. Long, who's been overseeing the HR consulting effort on behalf of the Board, there are several pieces of the work still outstanding. These include updating the Town's personnel policies and developing a performance evaluation module, but that the compensation recommendations, he said, have been completed.

In another matter, the Board agreed to send a letter to Jessica Holcomb, the previous owner of the Mill River General Store, asking her to relinquish the alcoholic beverage license for the store and to get back to the Board in the next ten days. Selectman Tara White said she's already spoken with Ms. Holcomb, who verbally agreed to surrender the license, but the Town needs to have it in writing. Under the law, according to Mr. Yohalem, the Town has the right to insist that she either relinquish the license or utilize it within a certain period of time – although he didn't know off-hand what that timeframe was – or the Town could, in effect, void the license. So instead, he suggested sending her a less formal letter with a suggested deadline in hopes that she'll respond.

There was a mild dust-up between Ms. White and Mr. Yohalem over the FY21 budget, with Ms. White insisting that the Finance Committee "needs to get busy and produce a budget," using a school assessment number that was prepared back in March before the pandemic took hold, so that the Town can then hold its Annual Town Meeting, as some other district towns are apparently planning to do. "We just can't hold this budget up until August or September because the Finance Committee decides they're not going to work on it," she said. "It's crazy to wait, we

The Board with all three members on the phone, voted to offer the position of Town Treasurer to Robert G. (Bob) Noonan, a retired resident of South Egremont.

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TEL: (413) 528-5040

FAX: (413) 528-5095

DENNIS J. DOWNING

DENNIS@DOWNINGLANE.COM

COURTNEY S. LANE

COURTNEY@DOWNINGLANE.COM

need to do this now, we need to get it done, and not stick our head in the sand.”

For his part, Mr. Yohalem said there’s just no point in producing a budget and holding a Town Meeting without a final school assessment number, because when that number comes in, the budget could change drastically, which would necessitate holding a second town meeting, and “we decided that we don’t want to go through the risk and expense of an extra town meeting. So we might as well wait.” To which Ms. White could only say, “Whatever, Nat. I’m not in agreement. I’m just not.”

But it was only when Mr. Long jumped in that things begin to cool off somewhat. For his part, Mr. Long said he would like to see Finance Committee budget numbers that agree with the Board’s numbers, what he called a baseline budget, which he said they currently do not. “Nat, what I’m suggesting is that we at least begin from the same starting point, that we have that in place before we face whatever the revised assessment is.” To which Mr. Yohalem, said, “The only way I can see doing that is by having a joint meeting with the Finance Committee,” which turned out to be something they all could agree on, and so that meeting was subsequently scheduled for Thursday, June 11, at 6:15 p.m.

With that out of the way, the Board reviewed and approved the minutes for the June 5 meeting, and then briefly discussed the petition from the Massachusetts Department of Labor on behalf of five Highway Department employees who are seeking union representation. **Ms. Enoch said she spoke with Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard about it, who said he does not do labor negotiations but recommended an attorney in Westfield, Massachusetts, Fred Dupere, who represents many of the towns in Berkshire County as well as across the state. Mr. Dupere said**

his firm was willing to represent the Town and that he’ll be sending cost estimates for the work, both his hourly rate and what the retainer would be. And with that the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. **(The following Friday morning, June 12, the Board unanimously approved engaging Dupere Law Offices. The fee, exclusive of court appearances, if any, is a monthly retainer of \$250, which can be terminated with a month’s notice.)**

Peter Schuyten

The Board began its Covid-19 discussion by determining Town Hall employees would return to work in Town Hall offices on Tuesday, June 30.

June 15: With all three members present on the phone, along with Town Administrator Mari Enoch, Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck and Planning Board member Mark Carson, the Board noted that Sage Radachowsky, the petitioner of the first agenda item, wasn’t yet on the phone so they moved ahead to the rest of the agenda.

The Board began its Covid-19 discussion by determining Town Hall employees would return to work in Town Hall offices on Tuesday, June 30. Members agreed precautions would continue as everybody is familiar with them now and that the building would not be open to the public except by appointment. The Board reiterated its policy that any employee who was ill or had been exposed to someone with the virus should not come in to work, and the policy of not counting those days out as sick time would continue during this state of emergency. Ms. Enoch asked the Board to clarify if employees had to come back on the same schedules they had prior to the state of emergency, to which Chairman Yohalem responded that the decision is up to Ms. Enoch as the town administrator.

The Board then moved on to a proposal for Town Hall whereby the downstairs office and bathrooms would be cleaned twice a month and the upstairs,

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once a month. After some confusion exactly how many hours Alvin Stalker, who presently cleans the offices, spends cleaning and how his hours would be addressed, the Board decided to put the matter on the next agenda and ask Mr. Stalker to attend to answer any questions.

The discussion then turned to next year's budget. Mr. Long stated that the Finance Committee would meet within the week to focus on the goals of the budget. Ms. White suggested that the budget be built by removing all big expenses and then set a date for the Annual Town Meeting.

The contention that marked the June 8 meeting resumed at this point, as Mr. Yohalem responded to Ms. White by saying, without knowing the school assessment, which is almost half the Town's budget, the budget cannot be prioritized. He repeated his stance that scheduling the Annual Town Meeting without accurate numbers would only result in the necessity of a second town meeting when the true figures are known. Mr. Yohalem went on to say that the Moderator's Town Meeting Committee and the Health Inspector recommended that the fewer times the Town meets the safer it would be for everyone. The Committee also recommended not holding a Town Meeting indoors, and Mr. Yohalem stated emphatically, that he, for one, would not come inside for a meeting.

The opposing points of view voiced by the two selectmen continued on from there, only ending after Ms. White repeated her stance in favor of setting a firm date for the Annual Town Meeting at the next selectmen's meeting. Mr. Yohalem stated that, if a town meeting happens without a school assessment number, he will stand up and advise residents to not vote for any budget. Ms. White said that was his right and the discussion ended there.

The Board then moved onto the less contentious territory of confirming appointments to Town positions. Mr. Long recused himself as a member of the Cultural Council when an appointment for Holly Valente

was approved. Then all three members approved the following appointments:

- Jeremia Pollard: town counsel
- Prue Spaulding: field driver/fence viewer, animal inspector, director of senior services, Council on Aging
- Robert Krupski: gas inspector, plumbing inspector
- Lawrence "Butch" Ray: alternate wiring inspector
- Marsha Pshenishny: Commission on Disabilities
- Wendy Miller: Cultural Council (until December 31, 2022)
- Don Torrico: local building inspector
- Jim Kern: alternate wiring inspector
- Holly Valente: Cultural Council
- Eli Cook: Agriculture Commission
- Sharon Fleck: administrative secretary, and Zoning Board of Appeals member

Though Mr. Radachowsky was still not on the call, the Board returned to his request to place a mobile home on property located at 252 South Sandisfield Road. Ms. Enoch stated Mr. Radachowsky had called last week with the request to put up a temporary building. She continued that the health inspector had emailed that there is a well and a septic system that can take gray water from this building, that everything is up to sanitation codes, and that he has no concerns about approving this. Mr. Yohalem asked how far from the road this building would be, and Ms. White advised that the foundation is well off the road and that the building would apparently be situated behind the foundation. The request was approved for use up to one year using the present septic system as approved by the Board of Health.

Under town administrator updates, Ms. Enoch advised that Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring planned to repave a section of Adsit Crosby Road that is particularly difficult to plow in the winter and that there is money in the budget to cover it. Mr. Loring just

SCOTT

MackENZIE
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wanted to let the Board know of his intentions in case there were any objections. The project is estimated to cost under \$40,000 and covers a short section of roadway south of the property of Scott KcKenzie. The Board stated they had no objections.

Ms. Fleck then advised that the latest Annual Town Report was available in Town Hall.

Board of Selectmen updates began with Ms. White sharing that the eight-town school consolidation committee would hold a conference call on Wednesday, June 17, at which time they would introduce the new facilitator and engage legal counsel, which is required to be done before June 30 per the state grant. Mr. Long then advised that the state has finally provided the data for the repair of Route 57, and the engineers are moving forward with it to prepare for the bid going out to have the work done. In response to a question by Mr. Yohalem, Ms. Enoch clarified that there will be a walk-through of Town Hall on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. for any firms interested in submitting proposals to make the building ADA accessible. All three board members then approved the proposed contract appointing Chief Frank the animal control officer and asked Ms. Fleck to get it to him for his signature. Mr. Yohalem then asked Ms. Enoch to respond to the complainant's email in the

upcoming dog bite hearing that the Board understands that the hearing is traumatic but that it is required by law to conduct a public hearing if a complaint is filed. Mr. Yohalem then addressed a request from the assistant treasurer for an increase of 11 cents in her hourly rate because she has to train the new treasurer and she shouldn't make less than the treasurer. The item will be put on the next agenda. The Board requested the assistant treasurer keep track of the hours she spends training the new treasurer.

The Board discussed a new grant opportunity related to Covid-19 that covers pandemic-related Town projects completed by September. The Board considered paving the Town Hall parking lot, as the WiFi hotspot is bringing people who need high speed internet for their work, as well as students, and the lot needs to be solid and safe. The Board asked Ms. Enoch to investigate further. With no business licenses or reserve fund requests, the Board then moved to the minutes of June 8 and at the very end of the meeting, Sage Radachowsky called in and, when advised the Board had approved his request, thanked the members for their help. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m. □

Sandra Fusco Walker



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THE PANDEMIC - PART 3

As the Corona Virus Infection Rate Eases, Vigilance Cannot

By John R. Schreiber, MD

As we enter the summer of 2020, I write the third installment of an infectious diseases physician's viewpoint in our ongoing pandemic. First, the good news: Massachusetts and surrounding states after weeks of lockdown and physical distancing are in a much better place. New cases in Berkshire County have ground to a halt and our hospital ICU beds are no longer filled with very ill Covid-19 patients, and are once again serving non-Covid patients.

The rest of the state is also improving, although Boston and cities to the east continue to have some hot spots. Connecticut was even more stringent in its lockdown and, as a result, shortly will have almost no new cases and no deaths from Covid-19. With strong data showing we have this under control and testing and follow-up now improved, cautious and well-thought-out reopening is underway. Congrats to everyone in our town and region who did the hard work of social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, and being supportive of the health-care providers on the front lines. Truly, the collective efforts of our communities have saved many lives and will allow some breathing space this summer.

Unfortunately, this pandemic rages on. It is by no means over. By August, the United States will have lost 150,000 lives to this virus in only seven months, three times the 58,000 casualties during eight years of the Vietnam War. Since we do not have a single national policy on the prerequisites for reopening, many states are reopening without the stringent data and epidemic control we have used here, with the predictable results of a robust resurgence of Covid-19 cases. Arizona, for example, has had few enforced restrictions and almost every ICU bed in the state is filled with a Covid-19 patient as I write this. Across the South, in Florida, and parts of the Midwest, resurgences are also being seen.

Unfortunately large gatherings, rallies, and protests create new opportunities for the rapid spread of the virus. If you must go to an event, wear your mask and bring hand sanitizer to reduce your risk from others who may be infected and unmasked. In addition, with the loosening of travel restrictions and new cases in other states, we can expect that some visitors will unknowingly be infected as they tour our beautiful area or return home from a trip. Our regional success in preventing the spread of the virus is delicate and requires our continued efforts to be successful.

Within the last month or so, our knowledge of the corona virus has greatly increased. Although we thought children did not become ill with this virus, we now find that, about a month after having an asymptomatic infection, a small number of children develop a severe

inflammatory syndrome that can lead to heart failure, shock, and, in some cases, death — although we cannot yet predict which child might have this disorder after being infected. We also have new evidence showing that the virus infects the brain of many people who are ill, and neurological problems, especially the loss of smell and taste, are frequent.

Research on treatments and vaccines continues at a rapid pace. On the immediate horizon will be antibodies from recently infected people or synthetically made against the protein the virus uses to bind to the ACE-2 receptor in human cells. Antibodies like these have been used to prevent infections from other viruses. Some of you may remember getting gamma globulin shots to prevent hepatitis and other infections. This is the same concept. These antibodies could be used as a stop-gap measure to prevent infections in high-risk patients, the elderly, or health-care workers, and to control outbreaks. I expect these will be available in the fall and may be a critical tool to keeping a lid on this outbreak.

Unfortunately, an effective and safe vaccine that will stimulate people to produce their own antibodies and become immune will take longer. Typically, it takes years to bring a vaccine to the market — and for good reason. It is critical to show that vaccines can prevent infections in a variety of people and that they are safe. The same rules will need to apply to this vaccine, and even if the work is accelerated, I anticipate it will be spring or summer of next year before we have a vaccine. Finally, we now have important new data showing that regular surgical and cloth masks work both in community and health care settings and reduce spread from person to person by more than 75 percent!

So as we drift into our beautiful Berkshire summer, we are truly blessed to be able to ride out the historic pandemic in this setting. That said, be vigilant. This epidemic is far from over and we can expect, much like being in the eye of the hurricane, this period of calm will end with a resurgence this fall. Since one has no idea if the person next to you is asymptotically infected, wear your mask when you are out and about. Conversely, you might also be infected and inadvertently infect the person next to you. The masks and hand washing work! Continue physical distancing from people not in your household. Respect the rules our hard-working businesses are enforcing to protect their customers and reopen. We owe it to them to give it our best effort. □

John R. Schreiber MD MPH lives in New Marlborough village and is Chief of Infectious Diseases at Connecticut Children's Hospital and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

MAILBOX



To the Editors,

Over the past several years we, the New Marlborough highway crew, have tried through our highway superintendent to convey our concerns to multiple select board members and several different town administrators that the pay rate for New Marlborough highway employees is and has been lower than that of most of our neighboring towns. During the fall of 2019, the Town of New Marlborough hired an independent company to review the job descriptions and pay rates of Town employees. After waiting for several months, with no official findings coming from the Town, we discovered that the report might not have been favorable to the highway department. The information below shows what we believe is evidence that the report was somehow flawed.

The New Marlborough Highway crew consists of four full-time employees, one seasonal employee, and one full-time working foreman. We are your neighbors. Most of us live within five to ten minutes of the garage. Many of us are local people with families. Our children are graduates of or currently attending local schools. We are proud to say that we have an accumulated seventy-three years of dedicated service to your town.

During the winter months, we are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week including weekends and holidays, often missing out on family events. We must obtain special permission to travel far from town. Our goal is to keep New Marlborough roads as safe as possible, especially during snow and ice storms. According to a Homeland Security Presidential Directive, highway departments are now considered first responders with the additional burden of being the last to leave. We are called upon to plow and sand to provide safe travel for ambulance, police, and fire vehicles to access residents or any other emergency that may occur in town. We are always at the ready to serve you and your family. We sometimes treat the winter roads for as long as thirty hours straight. All day, every day, throughout the year, we are expected to report to work when a tree is down or the roads are otherwise compromised.

After networking with surrounding towns, we discovered that our hourly pay is on average \$2 less than that of neighboring highway crews. This seems unfair considering the ninety miles of roads that we face every day — cutting brush, cleaning and maintaining hundreds of culverts, patching potholes, grading, raking, and rolling and dust control of approximately forty miles of dirt roads. On top of these duties, we are asked to maintain more than fifteen pieces of large equipment and all of the small equipment, so it is ready to go at all times. The standard for highway departments is one man for every ten miles of road. Following this guideline, keeping our ninety miles of road properly maintained would require three and a half additional laborers. We realize that this standard is far out of reach for our town, but it puts into perspective how much work we must complete.

New Marlborough's working foreman is earning \$23.78 an hour, where the other towns are paying their working foreman a minimum of \$25 an hour. A current New Marlborough highway laborer with ten years experience, a commercial driver's license, and a hydraulic license is earning \$21.75 an hour. Please compare that to the information listed below. Most of the hourly rates are current, although some towns reported information from last year. A few towns reported pay for experienced employees while others reported starting pay.

Sheffield	\$24.12	Otis	\$23.50
Great Barrington	\$24.80	Sandisfield	\$23.70
Monterey	\$23.76		

We like working for New Marlborough. We know every part of this town like the backs of our hands. We know every culvert and catch basin. We all know of problem spots during storms. In the winter, we know where to find the cold spots that are likely to ice up first because that's where the snow sticks first. We know where the bad corners are that require extra treating to keep people safe. All of this knowledge comes with experience that is hard to replace. We are not asking for a \$2 raise. Our request is to be put on a pay scale clearly documenting a path to a place where the New Marlborough highway crew would finally be caught up with neighboring highway departments.

Your Dedicated (but frustrated) Highway Crew

The 5 Village News reached out to the New Marlborough Board of Selectmen for a response to this letter. Selectman Richard Long, who is heading up a human resources study of Town employee compensation, pointed out that the Town has received notice from the state Department of Labor informing it that members of the New Marlborough Highway Department were seeking union representation. Because of this, said Mr. Long, "We are facing a labor negotiation and are prohibited from commenting publicly on employee compensation."

CLIMATE CHANGE

Yes, It is on the Way, and New Marlborough Wants to Be Ready

By Joe Poindexter

In an all-too-rare bit of foresight, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts not only sees the inevitable advance of climate change, it is trying to keep a step ahead of it. In a 2016 executive order addressed to climate change, the state established a coordinated effort “to strengthen the resilience of our communities, prepare for the impacts of climate change, and to prepare for and mitigate damage from extreme weather events.” Two years later, it funded this intention with a bill authorizing \$2.4 billion to build climate change safeguards, \$75 million of which will go toward what the state calls Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP).

But while Massachusetts is admirably ahead of the nation in preparing for climate change, it has established, perhaps to no one’s surprise, a bureaucratic obstacle course to actually getting the funding. New Marlborough, townspeople will be happy to learn, is well on its way through the hurdles. In January, the Town received a \$20,000 MVP planning grant to document its climate-change vulnerabilities and achieve designation as an MVP community. And now, under the guidance of Town Administrator Mari Enoch and in collaboration with Jeff Malloy of Boston-based environmental consultant BSC Group, the Town has begun to pick its way to the finish line.

First, a core team, made up of Police Chief Graham Frank, Highway Superintendent and Fire Chief Chuck Loring, former Emergency Response Manager Ed Harvey, and Selectmen Tara White and Richard Long, was assembled by Ms. Enoch to identify the chief climate change areas of concern. (A resiliency planning website — www.newmarlboroughmamvp.wordpress.com — was sent to the core team to describe the scope of the MVP effort.) Their views were augmented by a workshop group — members of the Conservation Commission, the Council on Aging, and the Historic Commission, among others. This was followed by a planning document, in which the town’s principal vulnerabilities



Jeff Malloy, BSC Group environmental consultant photo courtesy of BSC Group



Carrieanne Petrik, MVP coordinator photo courtesy of BSC Group

are articulated and prioritized. The next step will be a so-called “listening session” to be held this summer via tele- or computer-conference, to which the entire town will be invited to comment, amplify, and offer perspective. Finally, Mr. Malloy will amalgamate this information into a preparedness plan that will qualify New Marlborough to be named a “Climate Change Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program municipality.”

True, the designation doesn’t exactly trip off the tongue, but it is the key to the next phase, which is to apply for “action grants.” These might include floodplain protection, acquisition of open space, dealing with invasive plants that are encouraged by rising temperatures, or shoring up river banks to prevent erosion.

According to Carrieanne Petrik, Berkshire and Hilltowns coordinator for the MVP program (and for the past three years a resident of Mill River), New Marlborough should earn its MVP designation before the end of the year and be positioned to apply for action grant money when the spigot re-opens next spring. As it happens, by partnering with Sandisfield and Sheffield, both MVP towns, New Marlborough is already sharing in an action grant, worth \$123,972 in all, to study potential dirt road problems. A website page shows progress to date with this grant.

Chuck Loring points out that warming weather is already playing havoc with the roads — for example, where there can now be a half-dozen mud seasons per year where there used to be one or two, and there are more frequent washouts from severe summer downpours. “Believe it or not,” says BSC’s Malloy, “climate projections indicate that our weather will get even wackier and more extreme. By obtaining MVP designation, New Marlborough is on its way to becoming better equipped to bounce back.” □

NEIGHBORS



Congratulations to **Samantha Twing**, of Hartsville, on her recent graduation from college. She offered these details of her own plans and the disruptions felt by graduating seniors:

"I just graduated from SUNY Potsdam with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and from the Crane School of Music with a BA in music with a concentration on the euphonium. I am the vice president of the Alumni Association for my sorority (Alpha Kappa Phi). I just got a job as a receptionist at the Ghent Assisted Living Facility in Ghent, New York. I am getting married in October and will be moving near Hudson, New York. I plan to continue



Samantha Twing

with my job in Ghent, and hope that may evolve to a full-time position. As for furthering my education, I hope to eventually get a master's degree in gerontology and work in the field of hospice care and bereavement counseling.

The school closing definitely took me by surprise. While I was home on spring break in March, I got an email saying to pick up our stuff because we wouldn't be coming back this semester. The transition to online classes was rough as many teachers were still not familiar with technology, had to learn to teach classes over the Zoom app, and had to put exams online as well. Music ensembles were cancelled entirely which was disappointing, as music was a large part of my college career; it would have been my last concert.

The school allowed us to purchase caps and gowns and held a live stream for a graduation of sorts for us on May 23. It was really nice, as they showed a picture of us in our commencement regalia, displayed the degrees we graduated with, and even allowed us to send in a thank you note to be displayed on screen as well. They are working on still holding an in-person graduation at the end of the summer or early fall depending on the Covid-19 situation, but if that is not possible, they will invite us back to walk with next year's graduating class."

Lauren Scapin found that the pandemic upended her original plans, gave her time to assess her greatest interests, and develop new plans:

"I graduated from the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida, with a Bachelor of Arts in political science with a concentration in public policy. Covid-19 has certainly affected my plans greatly in both negative and positive ways. I had planned to volunteer abroad with several trips involving animal rights this summer and build upon my nonprofit organization, Camp Coco Inc., which rescues homeless animals. I then planned to take a gap year to work at the animal shelter back in Tampa. I am a certified court-appointed special advocate (CASA) in Hillsborough County, also known as a Guardian ad Litem (GAL), working as a voice for children in the dependency system, ensuring that they are rightfully represented. I had planned to immerse myself in this volunteer work in hopes of finding legal applications in this field, since I had plans to attend law school. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the shelter was unable to re-open, and I lost my main source of income. This forced me to return to the Berkshires, to the lifeguarding job that I have had for many summers.



Lauren Scapin

Fortunately, through my work as a GAL, I realized that my greatest interest lay in public policy and working with social services, particularly volunteer positions. I finally decided to pursue my deepest desire to become a nurse. I am now taking prerequisite courses at Berkshire Community College, and applying for the UMass Amherst accelerated bachelor of science in nursing program in the winter.

My hopes are to become a nurse practitioner and build my nonprofit on the side, as well as become a certified CASA here in Massachusetts and transfer my volunteer work here. This pandemic sure did rock my world. I was very upset since I am a first-generation graduate and, ever since I was young, have been looking forward to the day I would walk across that stage.

In spite of all the changed plans, I am grateful for the pandemic. It gave me time to clarify my goals and develop a plan for achieving them." □

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

photo by Barry Shapiro



Two of the six fox kits Barry Shapiro has been keeping his eye on

photos by John Schreiber



A mother snapper a-laying

photo by Larry Burke



One of many, many tiger swallowtails wafting about overhead these days

Following up on his last month's coverage of the fox family, **Barry Shapiro** wrote in on June 7 to say, "Great fun to watch them grow over the past few weeks and to see these two kits just hanging out together on a rock, posing for any passing cars. They seem to have disappeared now and I haven't seen them for a week or so."

Also on June 7, **Ellen Sweet** sent in an arresting photo of a late member of the wildlife community who breathed its last on River Road in Southfield. She said, "A man in a pickup thought it was a **possum**. It looks like it was killed while running. I myself thought I saw it in the dinosaur exhibit at the Museum of Natural History."

John Schreiber sent the following on June 6: "This **snapping turtle** laid eggs in our cornfield. Note the sprouts of corn. She very considerably laid the eggs between the rows!"

And on the 14th, **Robbi Hartt** happened to be in front of the Mill River Store to witness "three baby **skunks** out for a stroll with **Dave Herrick** looking on..."

The following day **Don Beauchamp** checked in to say, "lots of birds have hung around and had their first brood, and are working on the second. Many female **orioles** are still around, making a total mess of the hummer feeder. I'm also seeing lots of **snakes**, including a very handsome **rat snake**."

In the last weeks of June, the number of **tiger swallowtail butterflies** flittering around has been astounding. **Larry and Jane Burke's** mock

orange bushes have been a huge attraction to these handsome creatures, dozens at a time. Here's hoping we have similar numbers of monarchs as the milkweed plants pop up.

Following up on a post from last fall, the **cecropia moth caterpillar** that Larry came upon in September, and which spent the winter in his barn, snug in its dark brown cocoon, emerged for an all-too-brief adult stage in late June. This, the largest species of moth in North America, survives only five or six days, almost entirely spent seeking out a mate with which to propagate the next generation. Having lived out its short lifespan, and hopefully its mission, this particular moth came to rest in the Burke's greenhouse. □

Compiled by Larry Burke. Send your wildlife sightings to him at lburke2@me.com



photo by Ellen Sweet

The sculptural remains of a River Road casualty



photo by Robbi Hartt

Another reason to wear a mask

photos by Larry Burke



Three stages of a cecropia moth's life

TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

A Conversation with Nathan Buckhout, District Wildlife Biologist

by Robbi Hartt

One of the few positive aspects of the recent shelter-in-place reality is the resurging interest in nature and wildlife. Whether the natural world or we humans are shifting more is up for debate; however, most people agree that the presence of wildlife in locales not observed prior to our jobs, routines, and economy being put on hold and our increased interest in nature are positive changes. One local expert who has been observing the natural environment in and around New Marlborough for years is Nathan Buckhout with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in Dalton. Nate has been coming to Mill River since December 2015, weighing and measuring deer and bears at the general store during hunting season. “The deer harvest has increased almost every year,” he states. “Opening Day 2019 was the exception, due to a blizzard.”

Although the first two days of hunting season usually have the highest tally of deer and bears, many hunters were out plowing instead that day. Still, this area had a high harvest this year, with the same group of people coming out. “In general, as the deer population is going up, the number of hunters is going down,” Nate reports. “This is a problem not only on the micro level but also on the macro level, with state and national statistics showing a similar trend” (more people using technology? fewer people spending time outside?). That may be worrisome in terms of controlling the deer population, but because of the changing proportions, there are more opportunities for those who hunt to be successful.

In highly populated areas like the eastern part of the state, deer are more susceptible to car accidents and loss of vegetation, but in Berkshire County food resources are still dense. “We can tell that by the size of the antlers,” Nate explains, “as excess nutrition goes to the antlers. There are certain thresholds set, and the deer population around here continues to reach or exceed them.”

The tick load is another aspect of deer health that is measured and recorded for each deer killed. Nate notes that ticks are a big issue across the Eastern Seaboard, where the number of humans, as well as other mammals, is high. Students at the University of Massachusetts studying the tick population found that Lyme disease is not the only disease ticks carry—just the most common one. They have recently discovered a new tick in this area called the Lone Star tick (due to its single dot on its back) and are researching what diseases it carries and how often.

Are there any dangerous trends Nate has noticed over the years? “Well, there’s a lot of misinformation and lack of education about bears and birds,” he notes. “We get a lot of bear calls, with people complaining that bears are eating from bird feeders. Sometimes we get calls from people who are intentionally feeding the bears, too.” Both are problematic, according to Nate, as they cause the wildlife to rely on food sources that aren’t natural. His advice? Build birdhouses instead of feeders, and plant native species that draw birds to your yard naturally. Enjoy their beauty without interfering with the way nature provides for them, which keeps them as well as us safer. “Coyotes will also eat bird seed if you put it out,” he adds, “and along with the seed they will eat whatever is drawn to the seed, including birds and rodents.”

When asked about light pollution, Nate responds, “I don’t think we fully understand the impact yet. While the new, brighter LED lights help the environment in terms of energy efficiency, when left on all night they disturb the sleeping, feeding, and hunting habits of nocturnal creatures.” His advice is to install motion sensor lights so humans can have the light when they need it but wildlife aren’t impacted as much.

What positive changes are scientists observing since

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the Covid-19 isolation? Well, we haven't seen goats overtaking the streets, as they have in Wales, or spotted dolphins swimming in the rivers, as they have in Venice, but many New Marlborough residents have reported seeing record numbers and species of birds, and some have noted "more daring behavior" by other wildlife. This has raised hopes that perhaps, with a conscientious effort, we can regain some of the ground we have lost over the past decade.

Nate acknowledges that there are many articles celebrating the resurgence of wildlife but is careful to note that it's hard to tell the long-term trends from a period of a few months. It may be that the animals we are seeing and enjoying have been here all along, and the main difference is that we are spending more time at home, observing nature, and taking hikes, so we are learning more about our wildlife neighbors. Cornell Lab Ornithology, for example, has seen a big spike in the number of people downloading its Bird ID app. Fishing license sales and spring turkey permits have also been notably higher this year.

Asked for his recommendations as we begin resuming more of our daily routines, Nate advised, "As people are spending more time in nature and noticing babies born everywhere, it's important to remember to leave them alone. All animals are created with survival strategies, and it's best for them if we don't intervene." One example of this is the "abandoned fawn" that many people call to report. In reality, the doe leaves her baby temporarily to protect herself from intruders and returns as soon as the threat is gone.

Gardens, compost heaps, and chicken coops are also enjoying a big surge lately, which means people are experiencing predators they haven't encountered before, potentially creating another clash with wildlife. "Good intentions can result in unintended consequences for people and pets," Nate warns. "A lot of dominoes are falling; we're learning as we go as well. With nature, there is always a lag time involved; we see the effects of our actions down the

road." One observation he shares is that it is a great time to educate more people about how to respect our wildlife neighbors, since time and curiosity are piquing kids' and adults' interests. Unfortunately, most state-sponsored Fish & Wildlife programs are shut down due to thinner staffing at this time.

We ended the conversation with the million dollar question for those accustomed to bringing their prized game to the Mill River General Store for bragging details: *Where will hunters bring their bears and deer next November?* Hunting season will again run from the Thursday after Thanksgiving (November 30) until December 5. The Mill River weigh station is a big check station for the western district, with 100-140 deer weighed in most years. "I'll be there as usual, no matter what," Nate promises. "We get a lot of deer and a lot of information there. It's great seeing the same people every year and swapping stories. It's always a great atmosphere." Anyone who has lingered outside the general store the past five hunting seasons can attest to that. □

Berkshire National Fish Hatchery Update


The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, located at 240 Hatchery Road in New Marlborough, is not offering tours to the public at this time, but guests are welcome to hike the two trails on its roughly 150-acre property, with access to the Konkapot River, the surrounding woods, and plenty of mushroom varieties for foraging. "It's a local dog walkers' favorite," notes Brian Layton, assistant hatchery manager.

Children ages thirteen and under are also welcome to fish at the Hatchery's lower pond, which is well stocked with eastern brook trout raised at the Hatchery. Mr. Layton reports record use of the pond during the first few months of the season, when many children and parents were home during the shelter-in-place order. To check on the status of the Hatchery tours this summer, phone (413) 528-9761. □



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THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- May 2 3:00 p.m. Officer assists a driver whose car is stuck in mud at York Lake.
- May 3 12:56 p.m. An officer keeps the peace while a resident retrieves his belongings from a Mill River home.
- 4:22 p.m. An Adsit Crosby Road resident asks for assistance in getting her cat down from a tree.
- May 4 11:06 a.m. A caller alerts the Department to a possible intruder on his Clayton Mill River Road property at 1:30 a.m. the previous night.
- May 5 5:21 p.m. Alerted to a suspicious car at a Hartsville New Marlborough Road residence, an officer assists a driver in closing the vehicle's trunk, which has a broken latch.
- May 7 5:17 p.m. A tow is ordered when a speeder stopped on Clayton Mill River Road is found to be driving with a revoked license.
- May 8 10:31 a.m. An officer helps restore the peace in a dispute between Clayton neighbors over the installation of a driveway at the property of one of them.
- 4:53 p.m. The Department is alerted to a disturbance created by a visitor to the New Marlborough Town Library.
- 7:01 p.m. A dog is reported running loose on Knight Road properties.
- May 11 11:12 a.m. The animal control officer is called to help a Clayton Mill River Road resident deal with chipmunks that have invaded her home.
- May 12 7:21 p.m. A Mill River resident is talked down from a suicide threat and transported to Berkshire Medical Center.
- 9:23 p.m. Following an incident in Clayton, a Clayton resident is arrested for assault and battery.
- May 13 2:32 p.m. A caller alerts the Department to four car tires dumped illegally at the side of Cagney Hill Road.
- May 14 1:55 p.m. An officer investigates an illegal burn at a Clayton Mill River Road residence.
- May 15 11:20 a.m. An officer transports a hawk injured in Southfield village to an animal hospital in Great Barrington.
- 3:40 p.m. National Grid notified of a tree on wires on New Marlborough Hill Road.
- 8:07 p.m. The Highway Department is alerted to a tree down on Clayton Mill River Road.
- 11:42 p.m. Highway is informed of a tree blocking a lane on Mill River Southfield Road.
- May 18 8:36 p.m. A Mill River resident informs the Department that a restraining order is not being observed.
- May 20 5:41 a.m. A caller reports that her dog, a Lab mix, has run away from her on Hadsell Street.
- 1:01 p.m. A caller asks for assistance in capturing a bat inside an Aberdeen Lane residence.
- May 21 3:23 p.m. A Clayton resident accuses his neighbor of cutting trees on his property and requests assistance in determining how many trees were cut.
- May 23 3:52 p.m. A caller, worried the animal would be struck by a car, alerts the Department to a baby doe on a bridge on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- May 25 9:30 p.m. An officer restores order following a request for assistance with an intoxicated individual at a Clayton residence.
- May 26 10:20 a.m. A resident alerts the Department to a possibly rabid raccoon on Canaan Southfield Road just north of Clayton village.
- May 28 2:39 p.m. A motorist warns of slippery conditions caused by grass clippings on Hartsville New Marlborough Road near the Monterey town line.
- May 29 2:06 p.m. A Southfield resident asks the Department to keep an eye out for his Mac Book laptop, which he left sitting on the roof of his car as he drove off.
- 8:52 p.m. A Clayton resident alerts the Department to a stranger passing by on a bicycle, who attempted to entice his two children to join him for strawberries and ice cream.
- 10:55 p.m. An officer helps restore the peace at a residence in Clayton.
- May 30 3:45 p.m. An officer calls in a tow truck for a car that was disabled when its driver tried to reverse direction on Old North Road.
- May 31 12:05 p.m. A caller asserts she was attacked by a dog on Hartsville Mill River Road in Mill River village.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

FIRE AND RESCUE

May 3	10:32 a.m.	Brewer Hill Road Medical Call	May 12	9:28 p.m.	Alum Hill Road Medical Call
May 4	8:47 a.m.	Stratford Road Fire Alarm	May 13	2:21 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Canaan, CT Structure Fire
May 6	7:15 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Structure Fire	May 17	3:01 p.m.	Canaan Valley Road Medical Call
May 6	11:03 p.m.	Downs Road Structure Fire	May 22	7:24 p.m.	Woodleigh Road Medical Call
May 8	7:32 p.m.	Hatchery Road Medical Call	May 25	6:12 p.m.	Hadsell Street Medical Call
May 10	6:23 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call	May 27	2:13 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
May 11	1:44 p.m.	Hartsville Mill River Road Medical Call	May 29	12:41 p.m.	Pine Street Medical Call
May 12	3:01 p.m.	Hadsell Street Medical Call	May 31	5:30 p.m.	Hatchery Road Medical Call
May 12	7:28 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call			

Fire Company President David Smith

DO YOU WANT A SEAT AT THE TABLE?

There is an opening for a new member from New Marlborough to serve a four-year term on the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee. This is an exciting time for the District and you could be part of the decision making. Nomination papers are available at the District Office, 491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield, and can be picked up by appointment only. Please call 413-229-8778 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Candidates must submit completed nomination papers to Town registrar of voters Cathy Chretien, for certification of signatures no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday July 21. All papers must be filed with the clerk of the Regional School District no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday August 18.


Please direct any questions about such things as the nature of the commitment and the scope of the power of the School Committee to Jane Burke, committee chair, at 413-229-3321.

What's Your Opinion?

We would love to hear from you on what you think of the articles that appear in the *New Marlborough 5 Village News* — what you like, sure, but also how we might better report the assets and liabilities of our town.

Please send your comments to us at 5villagenews@gmail.com.

And don't forget that you can always view the *5 Village News* online at nm5vn.org.



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CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES, COVID-19 NOTWITHSTANDING



photo courtesy SBRSD

Within the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, everyone was determined to celebrate the transitions students look forward to at the end of the year. The opportunities for students to say goodbye to their old school and visit the new school were not possible this year, which strengthened the desire to bring students back to campus in a safe way so they could be honored by their teachers and administration. All events were held outdoors with strict social distancing protocols. Luckily, beautiful weather made it possible for all outdoor celebrations to proceed.

The first and largest event was the ceremony to honor the Mount Everett High School class of 2020, held on Sunday morning, June 7. Even though there was little time to prepare and no rehearsal possible, the event went smoothly. Teachers pitched in to escort families to the softball field and helped them locate their “box seats,” which consisted of four folding chairs placed ten feet away from the next set of chairs. With fifty-five students, these groupings spread across most of the field. Everyone wore masks.

Senior Kaylee Chatham opened the program with a beautiful solo rendition of the national anthem. This was a reminder of the excellent musicians among the senior class, who would normally have all had a chance to perform at the ceremony. Every speaker made some reference to the exceptional circumstances that made this senior year different from any other. Principal Jesse Carpenter welcomed the group and talked about his days as student at Mount Everett playing baseball on this very field. Salutatorian Nicholas Boardman and Valedictorian Sofia Giumarro spoke about how their experiences over the last three months had given them new understanding of the challenges ahead, and how they now had some confidence in their ability to deal with the unknown and unexpected. Superintendent Regulbuto thanked the students for all they had contributed to the school and the community while acknowledging that the huge changes that the country has experienced in 2020 will make an impact on their futures.

The conferring of diplomas had to be amended. Awards and scholarships were announced through a virtual



photo by Jane Birke



photo courtesy SBRSD

Top, the Mount Everett High School graduation, sprawling across the softball field on the Sheffield campus.

Above, sun roofs were open when possible so children could get a good view. Many gifts were handed to teachers, and thank you signs indicated how much families love the school.

photo by Jane Burke



photo courtesy SBRSD

Left, Teacher Tom Masters standing beside the banner at the entrance to the car parade at New Marlborough Central School. It featured the names of all of the 4th grade graduates. Above, lined up next to the balloon arch at the Undermountain Elementary School wave parade were the music teacher, assistant principal, art teacher, and physical education teacher, all cheering for their students.

Below, kindergarten teacher Lynn Webster had on a special mask with a window that showed her smile. She delivered memory books to all of her students so they could recall the days they were together in school. This truck was full of the Eichstedt family.

presentation on June 4. A video of this can be seen at www.sbrsd.org. Each student was called up to receive a diploma from School Committee Chair Jane Burke and verbal congratulations from Superintendent Regalbuto. At the conclusion of the ninety-minute ceremony, families were invited to go to the outdoor classroom for individual photo sessions with the District photographer. Everyone was asked to leave without socializing. All were invited to attend a picnic at the public park in Sheffield once larger gatherings are allowed.

During the following week there were three more drive-through graduations, dubbed "Reverse Car Parades." Students arrived with their families and stayed in their cars. Teachers and administrators were lined up with signs, balloons, and other decorations. The cars drove slowly by so the children could have a quick conversation with teachers and pause to receive a goodie bag containing a certificate, tee shirt, and other mementos.

On June 10 the forty-three Undermountain Elementary School fifth graders were greeted by a balloon arch as they arrived to their graduation. There were many decorated cars, and a photo opportunity was offered to each family.

Next was the New Marlborough Central event on June 12, where ten kindergarten students and eleven fourth grade children were feted. At the beginning of the parade route, a huge welcome banner was hanging from a New Marlborough fire truck. The enthusiastic line of teachers and staff, even retired staff, showed how much they loved the students. It was clear that it was hard not to have any hugs allowed. The whole fourth grade showed up, including Sadie Citrin, Gemma



photo by Jane Burke

Crafts, Elliott Flynn, Tobias Heaton, Elizabeth Kern, Ana Mollomo, Veronica Rowny Patrick Schaefer, Lilee Streeter, Erica Wilson, and Ben Zdziarski.

The last graduation event was on June 15. Forty-four eighth graders rolled down their car windows as they drove up to the main entrance to Mount Everett. Teachers and administrators lined the driveway holding signs and shouting out encouragement. This was a far cry from the last year's two celebrations held in the TAC-PAC and followed by a dance, but the best that could be offered under the circumstances.

Even though everything was quite different from previous years it was evident that there was still a lot of enthusiasm expressed by students, parents, teachers, administrators, and staff. Teachers and staff showed their students how much they have missed them. □

Jane Burke

AND NOT TO BE OVERLOOKED...

In the June issue of the NM5VN, we celebrated the Mount Everett seniors from New Marlborough. Since then, we have learned of two other New Marlborough residents who attended schools outside our District. The first is Charlotte Smith, who graduated from Miss Hall's School in Pittsfield. Charlotte is undecided as to how she will be spending the next year, but she plans to pursue her interests in film and television, along with psychology in the near future. The other graduate is Nick Lussier, who attended Monument Mountain High School and is planning to attend Syracuse University, where he intends to study film production. Congratulations and best wishes to both Charlotte and Nick. □



Charlotte Smith



Nick Lussier

photo courtesy Nam Smith

photo courtesy Susan Smith

SCHOOL BUDGET DECISIONS FOR FY21

The budget approved by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee on March 12 was thoughtfully crafted to enable the District to implement its educational mission to provide an excellent experience, enabling our children to develop to their full potential. With great effort the budget increase was kept down to 1.47 percent despite the required contractual increases for teachers and transportation. The budget is viewable at www.sbrsd.org/budget.html. It was the decision of Superintendent Regulbuto and the School Committee to put forth this budget for approval by the towns, despite the uncertainty with funding from the state and federal government. We are united in our determination to provide what children in our district need, especially now that they have had three months away from the teachers and classmates who are such key elements in their educational life. Below is a statement sent by the superintendent regarding this issue:

"Usually, the budget is already set for the upcoming school year by the time school comes to a close for the year, but as with everything else this year – nothing is the same. The budget that was built, was done so with input from all stakeholders, and was based on the governor's budget released in January. Our goal has been to continue to grow and build on the programming in place to ensure we are preparing our students for whatever comes next – career, higher education, the military, etc. We have created career pathways for

students at the secondary level, we are building a more comprehensive internship program, the middle school programming received a grant to expand project based learning, we are expanding our robotics offerings, and we have created in-house special education offerings that have saved the District money and are more inclusive in nature. We partnered with Bard College at Simon's Rock last year to offer classes on the Sheffield Campus during the day that resulted in approximately twenty to twenty-five students who accumulated 3 or 6 credits at no cost to them towards a college degree.

"These are unprecedented times, and in all my years doing this work from the financial office or from my current office, I have never seen a year where there is not a peep of information anywhere on what the state budget will look like. Also, we have been advised to plan for the worst and hope for the best. We are doing our best to maintain any monies not expended in FY20 in hopes of being able to help balance what we may lose in aid from the state and the towns. I am hoping for some additional federal funding, if there is any, to help with the loss of revenue. We are working with the towns, who have all been very supportive, and this District has committed all of our available reserves to next year's budget in an effort to suppress the assessments to the member towns. Affirmative votes by the towns will allow the District to continue to meet the needs of our students and families, and the tradition of educational excellence." □

Jane Burke, Chair, SBRSD School Committee

Thank You to Our Contributors:

Barbara & Daniel Bock; Carol & Lance Liebman; Anthony & Marjorie Consolini;
Joe & Holly Poindexter; Mary E. Barton; Sy & Edi Mayerson; Janet Brown; and Judy Friedlander



LAND TRUST NEWS

Sanctuary in a Time of Lockdown

Nine-year-old Eli was splashing around in the Konkapot River in the shadow of the ruins of the Lower Carroll Paper Mill with his six-year-old brother, Henry, when he lost his footing and fell headfirst into the water. He bounced right up, laughed and shouted, "I love this place!"

He's not alone.

"We have seen a huge increase in visitors at all of our Land Trust properties," said Martha Bryan, the Land Trust's long-time executive director. "We made a conscious choice when the pandemic started to maintain and keep our properties open, even though other organizations chose to close theirs. Our open space is very comforting on a whole different level during these challenging times."

The mission of the New Marlborough Trust, founded in 1983, is to encourage and promote the preservation of natural resources in New Marlborough to protect the Town's unique rural character while working with the Town's citizens and governing bodies to benefit the environment, the local economy, community education, and future generations.

The Land Trust now manages approximately 885 acres in Town and does so with a relatively small annual budget of approximately \$40,000.

"Our primary properties are the Lower Carroll Paper Mill, the Goodnow Preserve, the Joffe Nature Sanctuary, the New Marlborough Preserve, and Thousand Acre Swamp," said Ms. Bryan. "All of these properties are now seeing attendance levels we haven't seen before. People are getting out there daily to relieve stress, and we're hearing just how much they appreciate how well the trails are maintained and how really beautiful it all is. It's great to see families out there with their leashed dogs and keeping socially distant from others, some masked but most not. It's an opportunity to get into the open space and breathe. It's a chance to rebalance and cope. It's all so simple and so deeply valuable, and it's all right here in New Marlborough."

Maintaining the properties in light of the increased use can be a challenge for an organization with a limited budget, particularly when the Land Trust's fundraiser, its popular "Red Hot Blues Bash," scheduled for April of this year, fell victim to the lockdown. The gaps in funding, however, have been addressed in part by the volunteerism so often found throughout New Marlborough.

"We have some wonderful 'Trail Angels' who have adopted some of our trails, and I do some of the work myself," said Bryan. "People are always telling me about 'blow downs,' so we can get in there and clean them up quickly. Also, because of the increased traffic, some vulnerable parts of the trails need fixing up. Things always need tending, cutting, and mowing, although sometimes we can't mow a particular field because of wildlife concerns like the ground loving bob-o-links at the Goodnow Preserve."

Ms. Bryan gets particularly excited when discussing expansion plans for the Land Trust.

"Parking can be an issue as more and more people show up daily and we hope to add some better parking where possible, including at Goodnow, although we'll have to raise the funds for that. If we had more money, we could be doing more. I've got a wish list that includes kiosks, expanded trail identification, education programs and, of course, parking. We're not sitting still and are working on a 2.5-mile path from the Paper Mill toward Umpachene."

"We may be small," laughs Bryan, "but we're mighty!"

Kind of like nine-year-old Eli who never stopped smiling on the beautiful hike back to the car with his dad and grandparents.

More information about the Land Trust and its properties, including trail maps and some stunning drone footage of Goodnow courtesy of resident Odie Fields, can be found on its website, www.nmlandtrust.org (which also includes a link to make donations). □



A vestige of the Lower Carroll Paper Mill along the Konkapot River

photo by Barry Shapiro

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

Afterlife by Julia Alvarez

Big Sky, by Kate Atkinson

The Book of Longings, by Sue Monk Kidd

The Glass Hotel, by Emily St. John Mandel

If It Bleeds, by Stephen King

Metropolis, by Philip Kerr

Old Lovegood Girls, by Gail Godwin

Shakespeare for Squirrels, by Christopher Moore

Simon the Fiddler, by Paulette Jiles

Adult Nonfiction

Finding Dora Maar: an Artist, an Address Book, a Life, by Brigitte Benkemoun

Girl Intrepid: a New York Story of Privilege and Perseverance, by Leslie Armstrong

The House of Kennedy, by James Patterson

Indianapolis: the True Story of the Worst Sea Disaster in U.S. Naval History and the Fifty-Year Fight to Exonerate an Innocent Man, by Lynn Vincent

Red Notice: a True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice, by Bill Browder

Children's Fiction

Don't Check Out This Book, by Kate Klise

A Field Guide to Getting Lost, by Joy McCullough

Hello, Little One: A Monarch Butterfly Story,
by Zeena M. Pliska

How to Bee, by Bren MacDibble

Lift, by Minh Le

The Paper Kingdom, by Helena Ku Rhee

Summer Song, by Kevin Henkes

Children's Nonfiction

The Boreal Forest: a Year in the World's Largest Land Biome, by L.E. Carmichael

Hello, Neighbor! The Kind and Caring World of Mr. Rogers, by Matthew Cordell

This Is a Book To Read With a Worm, by Jodi Wheeler-Toppen

The Village Blacksmith, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Woke: A Young Poet's Call To Justice, by Mahogany L. Browne

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Cats

Jexi

Just Mercy

Little Women

Modern Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries Series 1

Motherless Brooklyn

Never Look Away

Onward

Seven Worlds, One Planet

Spies in Disguise

Books on CD

Big Sky, by Kate Atkinson

The Book of Longings, by Sue Monk Kidd

Indianapolis: the True Story of the Worst Sea Disaster in U.S. Naval History and the Fifty Year Fight to Exonerate an Innocent Man, by Lynn Vincent

Walk the Wire, by David Baldacci



photo by Julie Glickman

Dash Glickman, a happy beneficiary of the Library's curbside service.

The New Marlborough Library resumed curbside service on Monday, June 1. The hours are Monday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Requests may be made via email, newmarlborough@gmail.com or phone, 413-229-6668. Specific titles, specific subjects or genres may be requested and our staff will do their best to find appropriate items.

Requested items will be placed on the table on the front porch of the library in plastic bags with the patron's name on it.

We ask that only one adult per family pick up the bag to ensure proper social distancing.

Please note, your health and safety is of the utmost importance to us. Each item has been thoroughly disinfected and quarantined before becoming available. All staff wear gloves and masks when handling library materials.

Any questions, please contact us!

Deb O'Brien - Library Director

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

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Town Times

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

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

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

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

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

Board of Assessors: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

Building Inspector: Monday 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.; Thursday 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Post Office: Mill River (413) 229-8582 — if and when it re-opens:

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

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

Southfield (413) 229-8476

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

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

Town Treasurer: Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tax Collector: Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tues and Thurs 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Selectmen's Administrative Secretary: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dog and Animal Control Officer: New Marlborough Police Department 229-8161

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

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Library: 229-6668

Transfer Station Hours:

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

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

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

PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 6

and can be purchased for \$150

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

Emergency calls:

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New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

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

PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244

(413) 229-8165

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

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PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

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