



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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July 2021

Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

SOUTHFIELD'S NEWEST RESIDENT

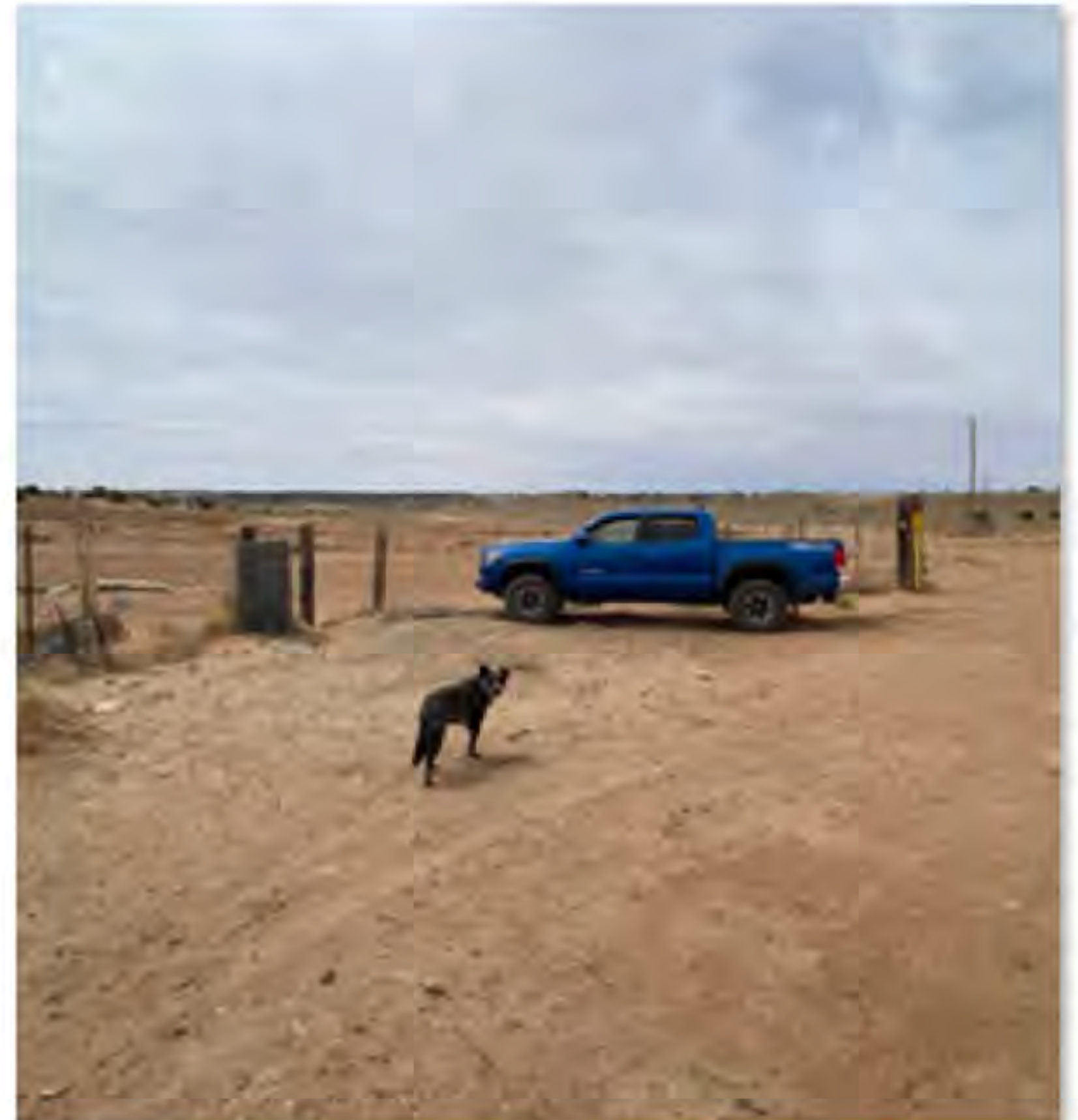
By Barbara Lowman

In late May, Rachel Perera Weingeist and Jeff Wallman, of Southfield, drove out to Sedona, Arizona, where Jeff works on digital cultural preservation and fundraising. While there, they also visited Navajo friends on the reservation in Pinon, Arizona, who are engaged in preserving traditional aspects of Navajo life such as construction and language.

Rachel and Jeff were moved by the sad story of a Navajo family that had been completely destroyed by Covid deaths. This made orphans of their three Australian Cattle dogs, who had to scavenge for whatever nourishment they could find in the high desert. Two of the dogs were killed by guardian sheep dogs, leaving just one to hang around the fringes of the settlement.

To make a long story short, Rachel and Jeff offered to adopt Blue, as they named him, and bring him to Southfield with their other two dogs. (Cosita is an albino Pekinese mix, adopted in Havana, Cuba; Tashi is a rescue Shih Tzu from New York City.) They headed for home on Saturday, May 29. During the trip they realized what a complete change of life this was for Blue. A collar and leash were unknown; he had to learn how to jump in and out of the truck; by

continued



It's hard to find nourishment in the high desert.

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On the day they adopted him, Jeff introduced Blue to his first collar and leash.



Blue on the day that Rachel and Jeff first met him. How thin he is!

Photos by Rachel Perera Weingeist

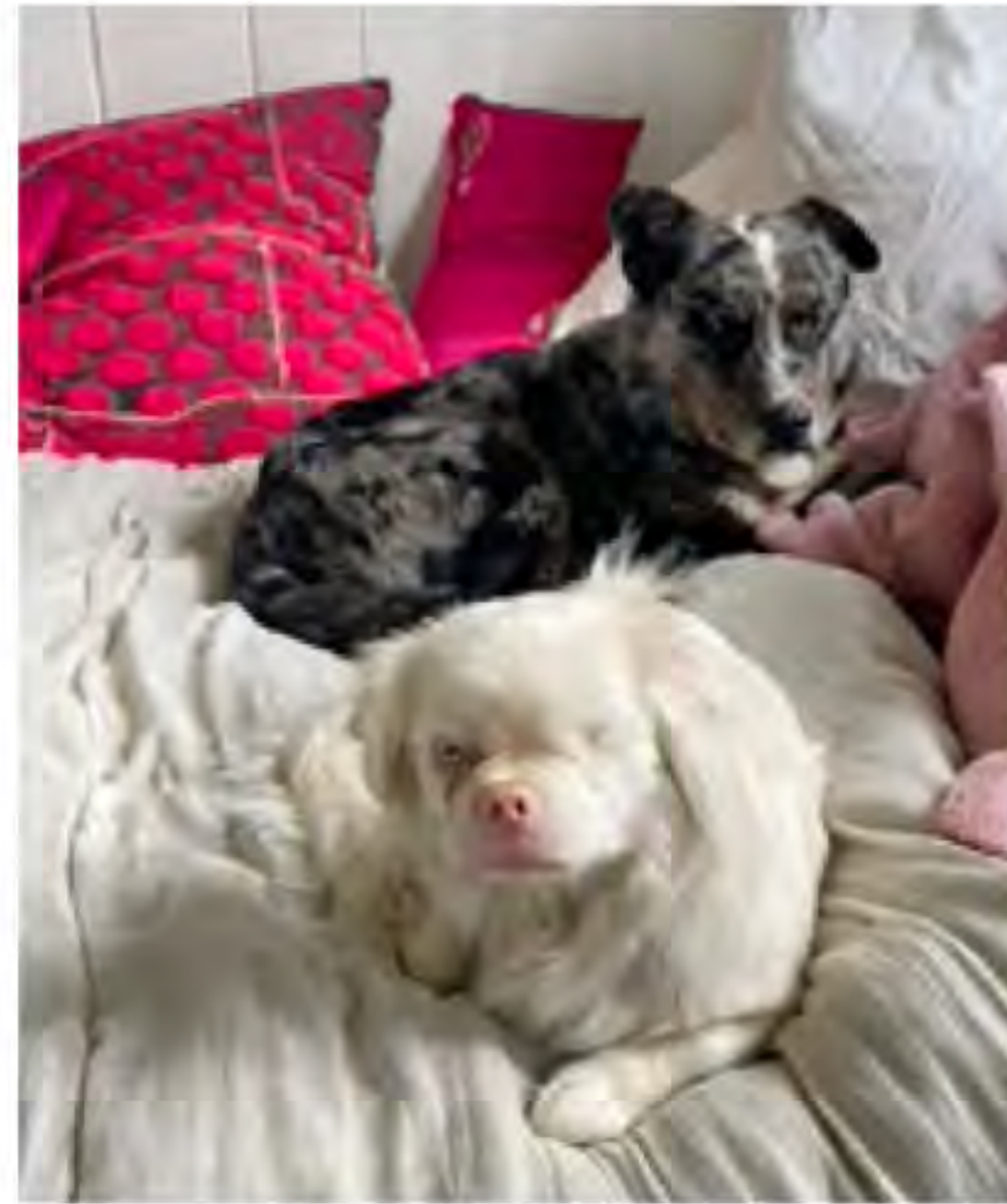
Southfield's Newest Resident continued

his reaction to the Colorado River, they realized that he had never seen running water; and he had never had to navigate a flight of stairs.

They also forgot that they were traveling on Memorial Day weekend – unable to find a vacant motel room, they and the three dogs spent the night in the truck. By the time they reached Southfield, Blue was making good progress on his steep learning curve. After a week here, he had relaxed and started to put on some weight. He enjoys the daily walk to the post office, and is learning to anticipate the treat he'll receive there. The contrast between his life here and the starkness and loneliness of the high desert is extreme; Blue is one very fortunate guy! □



Above, Four days in the truck, from Arizona to Southfield, on Rachel's lap.



Blue immediately joined Cosita on the bed at home – another “first” for him.



A happy Blue



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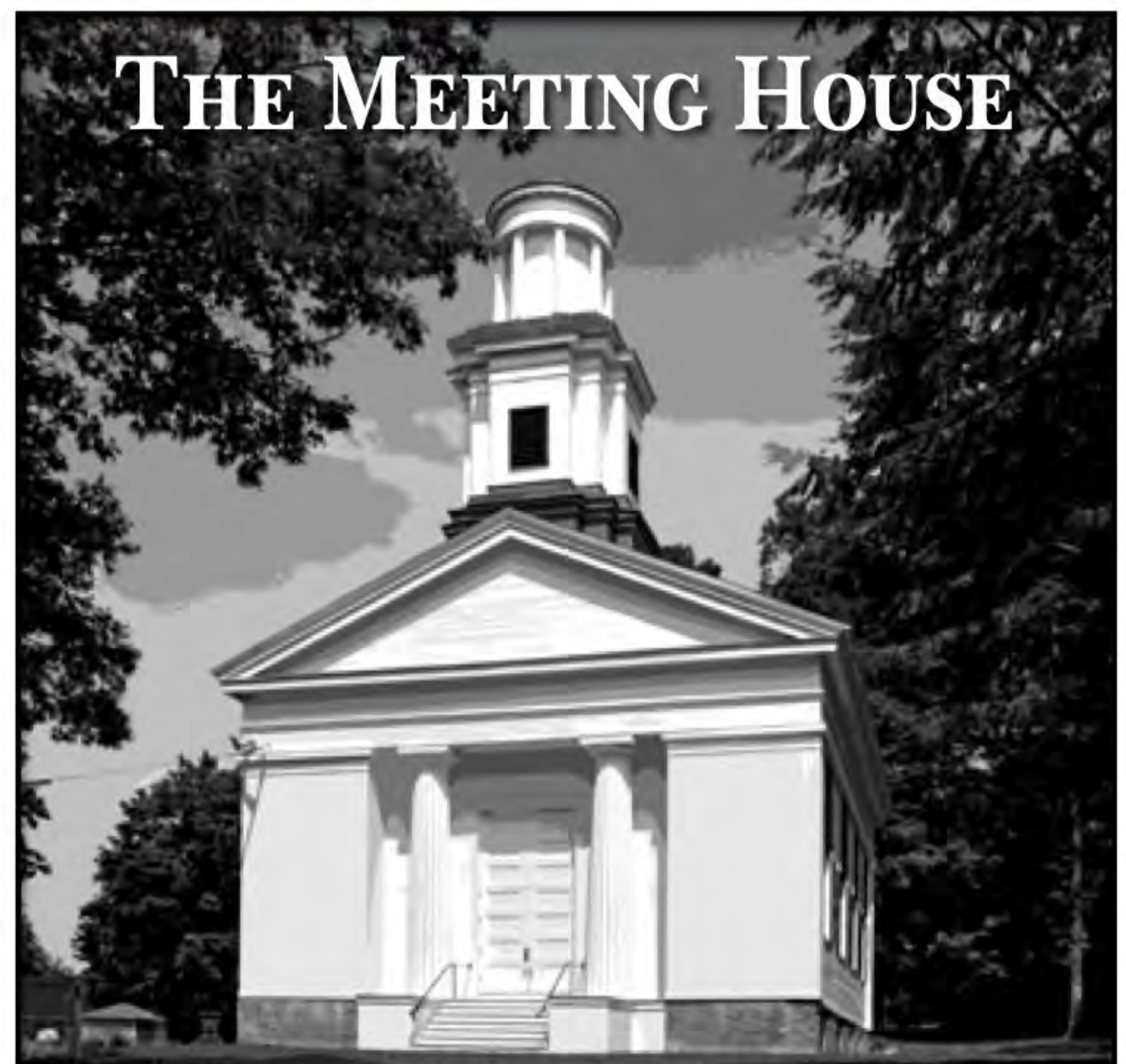
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A SELLERS' MARKET

Buying a place to live in New Marlborough has gotten harder, which, given the law of supply and demand is hardly a mystery – fewer homes for sale; higher prices. According to the April Market Report from Berkshire Realtors, through the first four months of 2021 the median sales price for houses county-wide rose 35.4 percent compared to last year. The median listing price increased even more sharply, from \$376,748 to \$518,626 – a jump of 37.7 percent. There has been almost a 60 percent drop in “months of inventory.” This an industry measure, which found that the available supply of homes on the market in the first quarter of 2020 sold out in 7.3 months, compared to just three months in 2021.

It comes as no surprise that Covid-19 has been a driving force in the attractiveness of rural properties. First it was urban families seeking the safety of less-densely populated areas. Then, the isolation imposed by the pandemic proved not to be an impediment to productivity among young professionals who heretofore had worked solely from an office.

According to Kenzie Fields, an agent with Great Barrington-based Fairground Real Estate, buyers seeking a strong community fabric are more likely to be drawn to the Berkshires than to neighboring Litchfield County in Connecticut or Sullivan County in New York, both of which are more economically divided than Berkshire County.

In New Marlborough, where, says Ms. Fields, the average listing price is about double of that county-wide, the trend is even more pronounced. “There is a feeling of cultural and community vibrancy,” she says. Relatively low property taxes and the availability of good schools are also a draw. For one example, according to Ms. Fields, Berkshire Country Day School will add students from forty new families this coming fall. Not surprisingly, the availability of robust internet connectivity, as Ms. Fields puts it, “is huge.”

Mary White, broker/owner of Barnbrook Realty in



photo by Joe Poindexter

Sale of the one-time Baptist Church in Southfield awaits a survey of the property.

Great Barrington, concurs on the importance of internet service. The feeble DSL connection has been a pronounced disincentive to purchasing property in New Marlborough, especially among young people. “Up until now, broadband availability was the first thing people asked about,” says Ms. White, who has been selling houses in South County since 1984. The wiring of New Marlborough with fiber-optic cable could change that dramatically. She also agrees that it’s a seller’s market. “Houses,” she says “are going for \$50, \$60, \$100,000 over the asking price.” One drawback: the availability of contractors to build or renovate. Everyone is busy, “You call them, and they don’t call you back,” says Ms. White.

All in all, it’s a tough time for those who would like to live in New Marlborough, but those of us already here can look on our residency with renewed appreciation. □

Joe Poindexter

 A black and white photograph of a large, rustic wooden building, likely a camp structure, with a porch and a gabled roof. The building is made of vertical wooden planks and has several windows. It is situated on a dirt path or clearing.

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Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



June 1: Special election to determine the impact of a bond for the repair of Hatchery Road; post-pandemic protocols for conducting Town business; compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act on Town-owned properties; progress report on CDBG grants for repair of low-income housing; procedure for filling the vacated position of building commissioner; approval of a grant submission to MassWorks for repair of Route 57

With the meeting (still Zooming) called to order by newly installed Chairman Richard Long, the Board designated July 12, noon to 7:00 p.m., for a special election to see if the Town will exempt the carrying charges of a \$200,000 bond from the provisions of Proposition 2-1/2, with regard to the repair of Hatchery Road. The approval of the bond at the May 22 Annual Town Meeting triggered the need to then remove annual interest and principal payments from the ceiling imposed by a maximum of 2-1/2 percent increase in the annual budget.

The Board then considered a return to normalcy following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. The major question: **When will the Board be required to resume in-person meetings?** Discussion of the pros and cons of meeting distantly was short-circuited by a decision to await state legislation on the matter. Whether to adopt a summer schedule of bi-weekly meetings was deferred until the in-person question was settled. In a separate matter, whether to impose restrictions on parking on the New Marlborough Village Green and surrounding roads was similarly postponed to a future meeting.

Next up, a lengthy discussion of the red tape entangling the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), a federal initiative that has made

available a total of \$200,000 to help low-income homeowners in New Marlborough make necessary repairs on their homes. The program has hit snags. For one, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), which is administering grants in New Marlborough, has challenged some applications and has been slow to approve others. For another, approved contractors, swamped with other work, have failed to submit bids.

Ginny Dawson, present at the meeting, said that contractors who had looked at her Hartsville property begged off, asking her to find carpenters to do the work. Tara White, observing that contractors “had to jump through hoops to be qualified for the program,” asked if the Board could circumvent this process. Tom Stalker, also present at the meeting, was told that complainants had to follow a grievance procedure but how to do so had not been explained to him.

With no clear resolution of the problem, **the Board moved on to replacing interim building commissioner Don Torrico, who, lacking a contract, has resigned.** The Board said it would solicit resumes with a posting on the Town website, which would include a job description and anticipated salary.

Following up on a formality, the Board approved the filing of a MassWorks grant to cover the cost of repair to a section of Hartsville New Marlborough Road.

Addressing an update from Town Administrator Mari Enoch, the Board then discussed the need to move forward on strategies for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Town-owned properties — including not only Town Hall but also New Marlborough Central School, the Highway and Fire Department buildings, the library, and facilities at Umpachene Falls Park — will all be affected. The matter was put off to the meet-



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ing of June 7, when ADA consultant Jim Mazik would be available to explain the findings of a self-evaluation and transition plan he has prepared for the Board.

Before wrapping up the meeting with approval of past-meeting minutes, the Board tackled year-end expense requests. **Payments for Fire Department and Cemetery Commission equipment were approved.** The request of \$6,000 from the Police Department, however, met resistance from Mr. Long, who said that an analysis indicated “a failure to adequately adhere to the budget in areas that were controllable.” His suggestion that Police Department requests be subject to a second signature was nixed by Tara White, who said she could not agree to a policy that did not apply to all departments. The matter was deferred to a future meeting.

June 7: Presentation by ADA consultant Jim Mazik; transition to Spectrum in Town properties; restoration of the roadway surrounding the New Marlborough Village Green; consideration of applicants for building inspector; acceptance of a bid for the purchase of a Cemetery Commission mower

A presentation by Jim Mazik, a Holyoke-based consultant on compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), occupied the first forty minutes of the meeting with a dizzying array of ADA shortcomings in Town-owned properties. In addition to such obvious problems as the lack of wheel-chair entry to the main room of the Town Hall, Mr. Mazik’s laundry list ranged widely: from parking signage outside Town Hall that is too high, to doorknobs that are out of compliance because they are round or oval rather than levered, to the lack of a ramp leading into the Transfer Station “Gift Shop,” to the lack of wheel-chair approaches to two benches in Umpachene Falls Park. Shortcomings and remedies are

detailed in a 120-page report prepared by Mr. Mazik.

The Board thanked Mr. Mazik for his presentation – with Chairman Richard Long calling the road to ADA compliance “challenging” – and then turned the meeting over to resident technology advisor Marc Trachtenberg to describe the transition of internet service from Crocker, which until now has serviced the town’s three hot spots, to Spectrum. **With town-wide availability of high-speed internet, two of three hot spots – the ones at Town Hall and the Firehouse – will be eliminated.** Only the library’s will remain, but continuous log-on by nearby residents will be discouraged by requiring a new log-on for each usage.

The transition to Spectrum would remedy a complaint from Fire Chief Chuck Loring over his concern that cars parked in front of the Firehouse were impeding vehicles from exiting the garage. This problem, said Mr. Trachtenberg, could be corrected by limiting the signal to the firehouse interior.

After noting that thirty days of advance notice was required to cancel the contract with Crocker, discussion moved on to the next item on the agenda: **the roadway surrounding the New Marlborough Village Green.** Eugene Cleary, whose residence is situated across Hartsville New Marlborough Road from the green, said that increased traffic and cars parked on the village green side of the loop in front of the Old Inn on the Green was causing a widening of the road, deterioration of the green, and threatening the loss of trees. The road, said Mr. Cleary, “is turning into a gravel pit.” He suggested installing a guard rail between the green and the Old Inn.

Mr. Long thought it might be useful to bring in someone familiar with Complete Streets, an approach to road planning that emphasizes safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, to advise on remediation. Old Inn co-owner Peter Platt, present at the meeting, supported a meeting

A presentation by Jim Mazik...occupied the first forty minutes of the meeting with a dizzying array of ADA shortcomings in Town-owned properties.



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with a Complete Streets consultant but immediately added that parking on the green was not a problem. “A guard rail is ridiculous,” he said, noting that participants in the Farmer’s Market and Elihu Burritt Day need access to the green. “Cars are not killing trees,” he said.

“We’ll revisit the issue,” said Mr. Long and promptly moved on to the next agenda item: hiring a full-time building commissioner. **Three applicants, including Don Torrico (whose resignation as interim commissioner precipitated the search), have submitted resumes.** The selectmen agreed that interviews with the applicants, both to gauge their competence and to communicate the expectations of the Board, would be appropriate. Fire Chief Loring, citing the importance of building commissioner to the Fire Department, emphasized the need for a person who is competent. Town Administrator Enoch said she would schedule the interviews.

The Board approved a bid of \$3,499 – the only one received – for a 42-inch mower for use in cemetery maintenance and asked that its acceptance of the bid be passed along to the Finance Committee. Finally, it was determined that a Police Department request for funds to balance its year-end budget could be covered by an inter-budgetary transfer.

Joe Poindexter
joepoindexter@earthlink.net

June 14: Acceptance of the ADA plan; A tough split decision on the hiring of the Town’s building inspector; a citizen’s complaint about a neighbor’s dilapidated house and the Board’s response; a deferred decision on Transfer Station fees

With all three selectmen attending via Zoom, the first order of business was to accept the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. However, the Board agreed to defer action on the plan for another week because one its

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members hadn’t finished reading the 120-page document that had been submitted the previous week by outside consultant James Mazik.

The Board then turned to the next agenda item, which was to review and renew the Fire Company lease on the old firehouse at 207 Norfolk Road. The lease covers the use by the Town of one bay in the building to garage the police cruiser at a rent of \$6,000 per annum, payable in quarterly installments – basically the same terms as last year. The new lease will run from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

Moving on, the Board voted to appoint Larry Gould as the Town’s new building commissioner. There were two candidates for the position, Mr. Gould and Don Torrico. The vote was two to one in Mr. Gould’s favor, with Chairman Long and

Town Administrator Enoch trying to mount a strong case on Mr. Torrico’s behalf. They pointed out that he knows the town well, having served as interim building commissioner for nearly a year now, and in fact is becoming a resident of New Marlborough. “It’s a real bonus,” noted Ms. Enoch, “to have the building commissioner live in the town because they’re available for inspections without a lot of travel time, and they also have a pulse on what’s going on and can catch some of those projects that are being done without permits. I think that’s a real advantage to consider.” Mr. Gould, on the other hand, lives twenty miles away in East Otis, a half-an-hour’s drive from New Marlborough.

Mr. Torrico is also well versed in the use of the Town’s online permitting system, according to Ms. Enoch, which Mr. Gould is not. “We have a big investment in the system,” she said, which is already in use by the Building Department and the Board of Health, and is being connected to the assessor’s office and the conservation commission. “Don has a big advantage there in that he really understands the system and can train our employees in its use,” she added. “We can use that technology to really help us and provide much better record keeping for the Town.”

Mr. Long was also concerned that Mr. Gould, in his interview with the Board, suggested that the twelve-hour week allocated to the position may not be enough to do the job, whereas Mr. Torrico indicated he was entirely comfortable with it. And finally, it was pointed out that Mr. Gould indicated he would be unable to hold office hours on the first Monday of each month due to a commitment to another town. For some time now, it’s been the building department’s practice to hold office hours on Mondays and Thursdays.

But none of that was enough to move either Ms. White or Mr. Carson, who both came out strongly for Mr.

Moving on, the Board voted to appoint Larry Gould as the Town’s new building commissioner.

Gould's appointment. As Mr. Carson put it, "Both are good inspectors, but I had a better feeling for what [Mr. Gould] had to say about working with the contractors, reviewing their projects, and telling them what he was expecting from them. He seemed a little bit more of a rounded individual to work with." For her part, Ms. White said she called Mr. Gould to ask him about the permitting system, and said he'd be more than willing to learn it. "Both are qualified," she conceded, "but I lean a little more towards Larry."

In other matters, the Board discussed a letter of complaint from Marjorie Robins Boscarino of 96 Knight Road regarding a house at 189 Knight Road that's in extremely poor condition. In her email, read aloud to the Board by Mr. Long, she described how she and her husband have watched with dismay these past twenty-two years at the deterioration of the property owned by Charlie Knight, which she described as a severe fire threat, filled with dangerous vermin and attracting vagrants. "We fear not only a fire catastrophe or worse, but a substantial problem for the surrounding properties and the adjacent solar farm, not to mention the well-being of all neighbors," and she concluded with the emphatic assertion that "This property must be condemned and torn down."

In the discussion that followed, the Board agreed the house is basically in falling-down condition and needed to be dealt with immediately. As Ms. Enoch noted, both the Board and the Board of Health have the authority to deem the property a "nuisance house" and order it to be taken down. But, before taking that step, which would very likely put the Town on the hook for the cost of the demolition, the Board agreed with Mr. Carson that a certified letter be sent to whoever's paying the taxes on the property, conveying the Town's concern and asking that the house either be repaired or torn down, and

requesting a response within two weeks.

The final item of new business was to set the FY22 fees for the disposal of tires, bulky waste items, and electronics at the Transfer Station, but the Board found the list, put together by Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman and Board Secretary Sharon Fleck, "confusing." A decision was made to defer action on it until Mr. Friedman could be called on to explain it at the next Board meeting.

In the absence of any town administrator or selectmen updates, the Board spent the next hour revising and then approving the minutes from the special permit hearing held May 25.

Peter Schuyten
schuytenp@gmail.com

With Mr. Long cautioning, "If we accept, we will need to show progress in the next few years," the Board approved the document.

June 21: The Americans with Disabilities report on Town properties; Transfer Station disposal fees; pay grade for the Police Department's new administrative assistant; notice of the special election to approve debt for repair of Hatchery Road; Southern Berkshire Health Grant program; discussion of the American Rescue Plan grant program to assist with Covid-19-related expenses; an urgent request to repair Knight Road

Chairman Long opened the meeting with a request for approval of the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, a 119-page document detailing the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. **Required changes will heavily impact Town Hall, New Marlborough Central School including its recreation area, the Transfer Station, and Umpachene Falls Park.** Additionally, the report enumerates recommended changes to the Library, the Highway Garage, and the Fire Station. With Mr. Long cautioning, "If we accept, we will need to show progress in the next few years," the Board approved the document.



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Next, the Board agreed to retain, with a few exceptions, charges for disposal of individual items at the Transfer Station. The annual sticker remains at \$180; furniture, \$25 to \$30; refrigerators, air conditioners, televisions, \$25; car tires, \$5. Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman requested a disposal fee of \$125 on large commercial tires and asked that the fee for small electronic devices be dropped. "If people have to pay, they will just throw them into the garbage," said Mr. Friedman. The Board concurred.

The Board then put its seal of approval on a job description for the administrative assistant being added to the Police Department. The pay will be \$18.28 an hour for approximately twelve hours a week. Moving on, the selectmen agreed on the wording of a post card that will alert voters to a special election to approve a bond for the repair of Hatchery Road. Health Agent Scott McFarland updated the Board on the Southern Berkshire Public Health Grant Program, which will make \$3,330 available to the Town.

Discussion then turned to another source of funding, \$436,000 available from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to meet expenses incurred by the Covid-19 pandemic. "The state doesn't want us to leave money on the table," said Mr. Long. Funds must be spent by December 2024, but applications for their intended use are due by the end of July, and it is unclear how restrictive the feds will be. "Roads?" asked Tara White. "Such infrastructure as water and sewer, maybe," replied Finance Committee Chairman Steve Klein, who was present at the meeting, "but not roads."

Mr. Klein said he has been in contact with Peter Larkin, who heads the state's broadband effort, about devoting ARP money to broadband. "It's pushing it," he said, "but one-third of our town is unconnected, and a reasonable case can be made that this falls within the provision of the act." Mark Carson put in a word for

funding areas of town vulnerable to flooding, affordable housing, and economic development. "It's time we brought the issue up to a public meeting," said Town Administrator Mari Enoch.

Louise Yohalem, attending the meeting to amplify a request she had made by letter to the Board, asked that the FY22 budget be revisited to include a long-overdue renovation of Knight Road. "It is the second worst road in town," said Mrs. Yohalem, whose residence

on Aberdeen Lane is reachable only via Knight Road. She reported with dismay that a neighbor, asking about when it would be repaired, was told by a member of the Highway crew, "Well, you're not going to see Knight Road paved in your lifetime." Not true, said Mr. Long, after thanking Mrs. Yohalem for reporting her concern. The Capital Planning Committee, he noted, had deemed Knight as the number two road in town, after Hatchery, in

need of attention but that there was only enough money in the budget for one road. He assured her that Knight Road was now at the top of the list.

In other business, Ms. White said she had talked to Larry Gould, whom the Board had chosen as its next building commissioner, and that he was still considering whether to accept the position. Since Don Torrico has already resigned, there is some urgency to getting Mr. Gould's decision. Ms. Enoch reminded the Board that it needed to formalize a twenty-year contract with CVE North America, which is installing solar panels off Knight Road. CVE will pay the Town \$45,750 annually. Finally, the Board signed off on an agreement with All States Construction, Inc., worth \$156,493, to lay down an asphalt-rubber chip seal on Canaan Southfield Road from its terminus on Norfolk Road to the intersection with Hadsell Street. □

Joe Poindexter

joepoindexter@earthlink.net

Ms. White said she had talked to Larry Gould, whom the Board had chosen as its next building commissioner, and that he was still considering whether to accept the position.



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NEW MARLBOROUGH
MEETING HOUSE



August
14
4:30 pm

Environmentalist Bill McKibben with Author Sue Halpern

A discussion about technology and climate change. Sue Halpern on "The Future You Can Have" and Bill McKibben on "The Future You Don't Want." Seating will be limited; buy a ticket early!



August
28
4:30 pm

Pianist Simone Dinnerstein

Simone Dinnerstein is a searching and inventive concert and recording artist who is motivated by a desire to find the musical core of every work she approaches. Presenting a program of Couperin, Schumann, Glass, and Satie



Sept
11
4:30 pm

Shakespeare and Co. with Joan Ackermann

In a staged reading of Joan Ackermann's *Ice Glen*, a touching period comedy set in the Berkshires. The performance will be followed by a talk with New Marlborough's own Joan Ackermann and the cast.



Sept
18
4:30 pm

Pianist Jeewon Park, Cellist Edward Arron, with Narrator Ben Luxon

Park and Arron have individually garnered recognition worldwide for their dazzling technique and impassioned performances. They are joined by the internationally renowned voice of Ben Luxon for this program of Beethoven, Barber, Beach, and Schubert.



Sept
25
4:30 pm

Magician Carl Seiger

An interactive performance combining illusion, jazz, and storytelling. Recommended for ages 16+



Oct
2
4:30 pm

Author Simon Winchester

On his latest book, "Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World," with guests Kathleen Brown-Pérez, Heather Bruegl (pending), and Setsuko Sato Winchester.

Meeting House
GALLERY



July **24**
thru
Aug **15**

Sticks and Stones | Opening Reception July 23, 5-7 p.m.

Whether about nature or metaphors, these works may literally use sticks and stones, or represent what the words "sticks and stones" allude to, or how they're used referentially in speech (a heart of stone).



August
7
1-4 pm

Young Artists Celebrate New Marlborough

New Marlborough artists ages 5 through 14 present their celebration of New Marlborough in a one-day outdoor show



Aug
thru
Sept **12**

Go Figure | Opening Reception August 20, 5-7 p.m.

These words may suggest works of Figurative Art, from real sources, or works from a process such as figuring things out, or a numerical process. These artists may be using anything from animate or inanimate objects, numerals, or the human figure, as the stimulus for their works.



Sept
thru
Oct **10**

Wonder in the Wander | Opening Reception September 17, 5-7 p.m.
Emerging Berkshire Artists Under 40

Artists bear witness to the wander, internally or externally, and how it has nurtured their sense of wonder. The concept is also inspired by Yugen, the Japanese term for an awareness of the universe that triggers an emotional response too deep and powerful for words.

nmmeetinghouse.org 413.229.5045

Route 57 at the New Marlborough Village Green



Meeting House Programs and the Meeting House Gallery are funded in part by the New Marlborough, Alford/Egremont, Monterey, Sandisfield, and Sheffield Cultural Councils.

NEW MARLBOROUGH'S CLASS OF 2021



Eleven of the fourteen New Marlborough members of the Mount Everett High School graduating class posed for a group picture before lining up for the procession. Front row, left to right - Zachary Lupiani, Cole Rosseter, Alek Zdziarski, Cecelia Caldwell; Middle row - Malik (Mickey) Masters, Maile Handy*, Kathleen Dillon, Cooper Rothvoss, Sheilea Oggiani-Brown*, Kai LaRose, Aiden Aloisi; Back row - Amelia Kemp and Isabella Kemp. (*denotes students who do not live in New Marlborough but went to New Marlborough Central School.)



Aidan Aloisi will be going to trade school to study to become an electrician. In his senior year he did a year-long work-study program with his father at RJ Aloisi Electrical. He plans to become a 3rd generation electrician. He was an outstanding member of the football team.



Serena Batacchi plans to attend the University of Rhode Island where she will study marketing and play on the women's ice hockey team. Her current interests are ice hockey, cooking, and wellness.



Cecelia Caldwell of Southfield received the Superintendent's Award and was named Valedictorian. Her interests have been Social Justice and Environmental Sustainability. She will be attending Middlebury College where she plans to Major in Anthropology and minor in Linguistics.



Kathleen Dillon will be attending Bridgewater State University and plans to double-major in Elementary Education and Photography. She received a New Marlborough Monterey PTA scholarship. Her interests include exercise, film, photography, and gardening.



Amelia Kemp will be attending Smith College next year. She is interested in studying Economics, Art, Film, and Media Studies.



Isabella Kemp plans to attend Smith College where she will Major in Environmental Science & Policy. At Mount Everett she helped start the Sustainability Speakers Series. Her interests include dancing, choreographing, and Shakespearean theatre.



Zachary Lupiani plans to work at Lupiani Bros., his brother Bradley's lawn business. He is also serving as a Berkshire Bass fishing guide. Following in the family tradition, Zach was a standout wrestler at Mount Everett.



Malik (Mickey) Masters will take a gap year and then attend Berkshire Community College. He is interested in opening his own restaurant and bar. At Mount Everett, he was an outstanding performer in theater and music. He will keep singing for fun.



Cooper Rothvoss will be attending Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire. He plans to study Sports Media, focusing on journalism. One day, he hopes to work at ESPN. Golf is one of Cooper's favorite sports, and he will be playing for the Franklin Pierce Ravens.



Cole Rosseter will be attending Berkshire Community College to pursue his interest in Environmental Science.



Alek Zdziarski will be attending Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin, Majoring in psychology with plans to become a clinical therapist. He will be playing baseball with the Edgewood College Eagles and looks forward to the challenge of playing at the collegiate level.

Photos of three graduates were unavailable. Kai LaRose of Southfield will attend Berkshire Community College, Owen Piel of Southfield has enlisted in the United States Navy, and Patryk Stube is going on to an unspecified career.

COME ONE, COME ALL! BURRITT DAY IS BACK!

The New Marlborough Cultural Council is delighted to announce the return of Elihu Burritt Day, a celebration of New Marlborough, to be held Saturday, August 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the Village Green. So, calling all artists, foodies, crafters, do not miss out on this amazing opportunity to display your artistic talents, culinary delights, specialty items, homegrown products, etc. If you want in on the action on Elihu Burritt Day, it is time to get it together and register early to reserve your space.

For registration details and more information, please contact:

Holly Valente

413-229-0059 or villavalente@gmail.com

Marjorie Robins Boscarino

413-528-0234 or robinsmarjorie@gmail.com

Wendy Miller

860-830-1250 or brookmedefarm@me.com

WANTED: WHITE ELEPHANTS

The New Marlborough Cultural Council's beloved – and always much anticipated – White Elephant Sale will be back on the New Marlborough Village Green on Elihu Burritt Day, August 21. We have all spent a lot of time this past pandemic year cleaning out closets, organizing shelves and drawers, and putting aside no longer beloved treasures in anticipation of the Burritt Day gathering of people just looking for that special something for their home. As always, all proceeds from this sale are used to support arts, artists, and educational programs that benefit our community.

We're doing things a little differently this year. All collections will take place on the New Marlborough Green on Thursday evening, August 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Friday, August 20 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Please note these guidelines:

We will not accept the following:

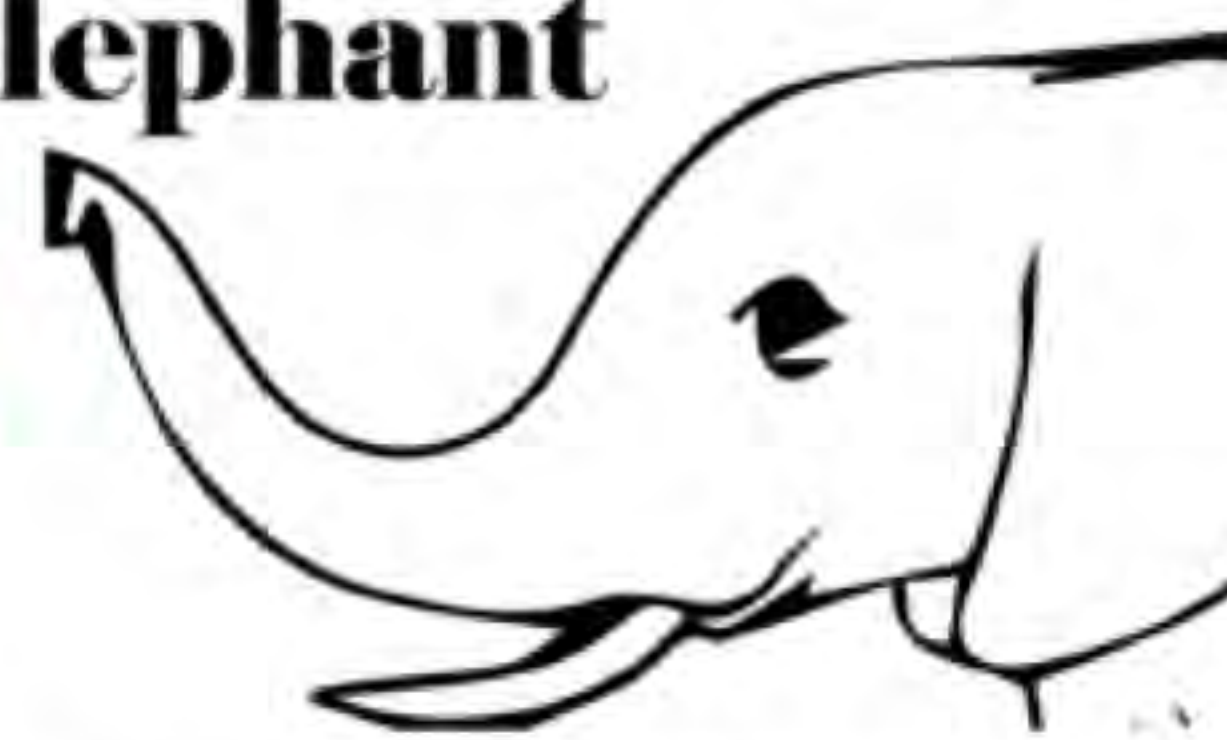
- Anything broken, torn, dirty, spotted, unusable
- Books (the Library will have its own collection and sale)
- Drapes, curtains, pillows, blinds/shades
- No electronics – no computers, printers, electric powered household goods. We can't guarantee that they work!
- Bike or ski helmets, baby car seats

- Ice skates or roller skates/blades, downhill or cross-country skis.

We look forward to seeing you on the Green.

Louise Yohalem, louisey77@msn.com

White Elephant



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is in
YOUR
Hands**

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and Social Distance
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A DIFFERENCE!**



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berkshirehealthsystems.org

Southfield
Lawn Service

Bill Ruane
Billruane303@gmail.com
413-446-4656

Upcoming: Events Calendar for July and August

July 3-5: A StoryWalk® project presented jointly by the New Marlborough Library and the Land Trust – an adventure in reading and experiencing nature, at the Goodnow Preserve (See page 26 for details)

July 12: A special election to see if the Town will exempt the carrying charge of a \$200,000 grant from the provisions of Proposition 2-1/2. Noon to 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall

July 23: The Meeting House Gallery comes out of hibernation with **Sticks and Stones**, the season's first show of paintings and sculpture; reception starting 5:00 p.m., open thereafter Friday-Sunday until August 15

July 29: New Marlborough Historical Society Annual Meeting, upstairs in the New Marlborough Meeting House, 6:00 p.m.


August 7: A one-day Young People's Art Show, displaying the vibrant talent of New Marlborough youth, on the green in front of the Meeting House, noon to 4:00 p.m.

August 14: Bill McKibben and Sue Halpern talk about two of society's most pressing issues, technology and climate change; 4:30 p.m. in the main room of the Meeting House

August 20: Go Figure, the Meeting House Gallery's second art show; reception starts at 5:00 p.m., open thereafter Friday-Sunday until September 11

August 21: Elihu Burritt Day; it's back with food and fun for the family and those two perennial favorites: the library's book sale and the White Elephant Sale; followed by the Fire Company Pig Roast, at the Firehouse in Southfield, starting at 5:00 p.m.. And, yes, there will be a Grand Raffle

August 28: Acclaimed Pianist Simone Dinnerstein at the keyboard in the main room of the Meeting House, 4:30 p.m.



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TICKS!

By Steven Nester

The Southern Berkshires seems to be experiencing an unprecedented increase in the tick population; and as pet owners and outdoor enthusiasts swap anecdotal evidence of their encounters, all want to know the causes, and what can be done to keep themselves and their pets safe from ticks and tick-borne diseases. As for an explanation for rise in population, and the number of ticks found on pets and humans this year, all seem to depend upon the vagaries of Mother Nature.

Fairview Hospital physician Alec Belman has noticed, “a much larger amount of dog ticks this year but not a larger than typical amount of deer ticks. It is important to know the difference as dog ticks – the larger ones with a shield-like pattern on their upper back – do not carry Lyme Disease, but do carry Anaplasmosis which is also quite common around here. It’s hoped that by this time everyone can identify a deer tick when they see one; they’re smaller with a solid Red or Black torso and carry both Lyme and Anaplasmosis.

Dr. Richard Ostfeld, a disease ecologist, directs The Tick Project at the Cary Institute of Ecosystems Studies in Dutchess County, New York. The goal of the study is to control tick populations and diseases with methods that can be adopted by local municipalities. The abundance of Blacklegged, or Deer Tick nymphs, which are responsible for the majority of cases of Lyme and other diseases, says Ostfeld, “is distinctly higher than average this year.” The reason for the abundance, he says, is due to an increase in the population of white-footed mice, which can be predicted, based on the prior year’s acorn production.

Local veterinarian Emily Newman Stanton, however, actually does not see a rise in the tick population this season. “I don’t think there is a sharp rise outside the expected spike every springtime, peaking April through June, she says. “After not dealing with them as much during the earlier months,” she adds, “it seems to always shock folks how many there are when they do get going.” As a warning, she adds, “Ticks have been increasing steadily in the New England for many years, with seasonal and annual variations.”

The ideal tick habitat (high grass or weeds, or a leafy ground cover) is well understood, but researchers sometimes have a difficult time explaining the huge differences between tick populations in certain locations during certain years. Studies have found targeted sites, just miles apart, can vary greatly from



female
larva nymph male
**Black Legged
(Deer) Tick**



female
larva nymph male
**American Dog
(Wood) Tick**

year to year. While tick-friendly environments should be avoided, people and their pets are ever increasingly entering these habitats, and this is perhaps the biggest source of tick-to-human/pet disease transmission. If entering a tick-infested area is a necessity, there are plenty of preventative measures one can take.

Wearing tight, light-colored clothing will keep ticks outside and enable one to see them more clearly than on dark clothing. Treating one’s outdoor clothing with 0.5 percent permethrin solution is another, and perhaps more drastic action. For the pets, Dr. Newman Stanton recommends natural topicals containing aromatics such as garlic and cedar. Diatomaceous earth, the active ingredient in swimming pool filters has been bandied about for use on one’s clothes, pets, and as a deterrent in one’s yard, but it’s one that Newman Stanton doesn’t advise. On my dog, I use a commercial repellent, and dust her with diatomaceous earth once a week, with no apparent ill effects. Also, after every walk, I wrap packing tape around my hand (sticky side out) and dab my dog top to bottom, which has yielded ticks. Finally, a vigorous brushing before entering the house usually takes care of any determined parasites. Dr. Newman Stanton says she “supports my clients’ decisions about what makes sense to them. There is no ‘right answer’ here.” As vigilant as I am, I always seem to miss one or two.

According to the Massachusetts Public Health website, those bitten by a tick have a one-to-fifty percent change of contracting a tick-borne disease. The tick must be attached to a host for twenty-four hours before any disease can be transferred. Those bitten by a tick should get tested immediately; if left untreated, Lyme can cause arthritis and meningitis, among other ailments. There is a plethora of tick removal devices, but perhaps the easiest and handiest is the tweezers one’s medicine cabinet. If a tick is found inside the home, an energetic vacuuming is recommended in case there are more.

Says Dr. Ostfeld, “It does not seem possible to eradicate ticks in yards, or anywhere else. There are various tick-killing products – both chemical and biological control agents – that can reduce tick abundance somewhat, but so far, none has been shown to reduce human encounters with ticks or incidence of tick-borne disease. We have a lot of work left to do in this area.” Ticks, it’s safe to say, are here to stay.

Broadband Update

THE ROLLOUT ROLLS ON

By Barry R. Shapiro

Despite some hiccoughs, the rollout of high-speed internet in New Marlborough is moving forward on schedule with enrollments in line with, or even exceeding, expectations.

The installation schedule originally established by Spectrum divided New Marlborough into five parts to be lit up sequentially, and, as this issue goes to press, installation was either completed or underway in the first four parts.

“We are right on or close to schedule,” said Steve Klein, Chairman of the Town’s Cable Advisory Committee which is overseeing the installation process. “We fully expect Phase Five to be completed and the entire town wired by August 1. If Spectrum has slipped a day or so, it’s only due to the large number of people who have signed up for installation. The ‘take rate,’ meaning the number of people in an area who have signed up, is at about 60% which is about what was expected or even better, although, judging by other towns where Spectrum has begun to provide service, people will sign up for months after the initial installation phase.”

The expected level of enrollments during Phase One was reduced a bit when some residents chose to sign up with an alternative service provider, Fiber Connect, which had a line running through some of the area covered by Phase One. Fiber Connect is not now available in other areas of the Town, and, as a result, enrollments in those areas are stronger than in Phase One.

Addressing the complaints from some residents about their dissatisfaction with Spectrum’s service, which led one resident to send a complaint to The Berkshire Eagle seeking their intervention, Mr. Klein said, “There have been the usual glitches, which is to be expected with a town-wide installation, but for most people, the installation has been seamless, and they are thrilled with

the installation process and the service. A problem which Spectrum had with a third-party software provider seems to have been resolved and installation issues appear to have dropped off significantly.”

Mr. Klein was effusive in his praise both for members of his Committee and the Spectrum personnel assigned to lead the installation effort.

“We are all indebted to the hard work and diligence of the Committee, particularly my colleague, John Valente, who has fielded many calls and emails from residents. The Spectrum personnel, John Decker, the operations manager, and George Dowin, the installation manager, have been very responsive to our concerns.”

As the installation continues, and early service issues disappear, the long awaited dream of a time when the entire town would be overflowing with high speed internet and people will no longer be burdened with DSL or sitting outside a wireless hotspot in order to connect to an important meeting or a classroom, is, or at least by August 1 will be, a reality. □



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MEMORIAL DAY 2021

The Memorial Day observance in Mill River took place this year under gray skies, with temperatures barely reaching the mid-40's. Nevertheless, a crowd assembled, mostly without masks for the first time in over a year; a parade occurred, even if it was limited to just the honor guard; the Mount Everett band did not march but did perform in a socially-distanced formation; and a full-fledged ceremony under the direction of David Hastings did take place on the Library lawn.

Participants in the morning's proceeding included, along with Master of Ceremonies David Hastings; Reverend Regina King of the Clayton Church of God, who delivered an opening and closing prayer; Willem Vollmer, this year's 8th grade ambassador for Project 351 for the town of New Marlborough, who read Governor Baker's Memorial Day Proclamation; local historian Jim Parrish, who turned out in a replica uniform of a Revolutionary War soldier, described the day-to-day life of a militia man, and even demonstrated the loading and firing of his musket. As in Memorial Day ceremonies of the past, this one, while modified to suit the waning days of pandemic protocols, still featured the touching presentation of roses to our veterans, the firing of the salute to fallen heroes by the honor guard, and the lowering and raising of the flag to the sound of "Taps." Even in the face of inhospitable weather, this gathering of remembrance was a warm and welcome affirmation of our town's resilience, as well as its commitment to our important traditions. □

text and photos by Larry Burke





NEIGHBORS



Have you wondered about the little purple box in front of The Whip Shop in Southfield? It's a Little Free Library established by Whip Shop owner **Judy Newman** and her husband, **Jeff MacGregor**. Little Free Libraries began in 2009 in Wisconsin; by now there are 100,000 libraries in 108 countries around the world. The purpose is to build community and inspire a love of reading through an exchange of books.

How does it work? Anyone may take a book to read or contribute a book for others to read. It's free, and the book can be returned or passed along to someone else. It's a way of fostering a different means

of communicating in the neighborhood.

Judy encourages everyone: "Check it out! Take a book, read it, share it, and drop off one of yours to share. It's fun, and a great way to connect with others."

The Chang Chavkin Scholars Program, established three years ago by Southfield residents **Laura Chang** and **Arnold Chavkin**, provides support and scholarship aid to local first-time college applicants. The program works with the student and family throughout the sometimes overwhelming search and application process, and continues with mentoring and financial support through the college years.

This year, New Marlborough's Mount Everett student **Rochele Worth** has been selected as one of the Chang Chavkin Scholars. Beginning this summer she will be working with **Nancy Roseman**, the program's executive director, to identify colleges that would support her interests and goals. Rochele expressed her reaction to this honor: "I'm really grateful for this opportunity, which I never thought I'd win. And I thank Laura Chang and Arnold Chavkin for their generosity in establishing this program. I've already begun working with Nancy, and she's been very helpful." Rochele is interested in pursuing a career in clinical psychology, involving both biology and psychology. She wants to stay fairly close to her family, so initially is looking at Boston University, Williams College, and Northeastern University. We wish you well, Rochele, as you tackle these new challenges.

Veterinarian, photographer, and dancer, **Jan Thompson-Moses** passed away on May 23 from pancreatic cancer. Upon graduation from New York University's Tisch School of Arts, her interest in science and love of animals led her to veterinary school. She then joined her husband, Jay Moses, in their practice in New York City.

Jay and Jan moved fulltime to their Mill River home on the Konkapot River in 2000, but had been coming up weekly for twenty years before that. Jan immersed herself in the art of photography, and was a second-place winner in *Berkshire Magazine's Wild Places*. Jan eagerly partook of all the local diversions, from being a member of the New Marlborough Library book club, to hiking the Land Trust trails, to supporting all the neighborhood restaurants and general stores, farmers' markets, and farm stands. She was involved in the Great Barrington chapter of Dining for Women, and a regular at Yoga Great Barrington.

Husband Jay says, "People who did not know her were sometimes intimidated by her beauty, good judgment, perseverance, and competence, but she was never bound by her ego. She was deeply introspective and recognized her own vulnerabilities." The virtue she cherished most highly in anyone, which she exemplified, was being kind. Her capacity to listen and be present was a gift to all who encountered her. The love, laughter, and light she brought to family and friends will continue to illuminate the lives of all who knew and loved her.

photo courtesy of Moses family



Jay Moses's favorite photo of his wife



photo by Judy Newman

Visit the Little Free Library at The Whip Shop

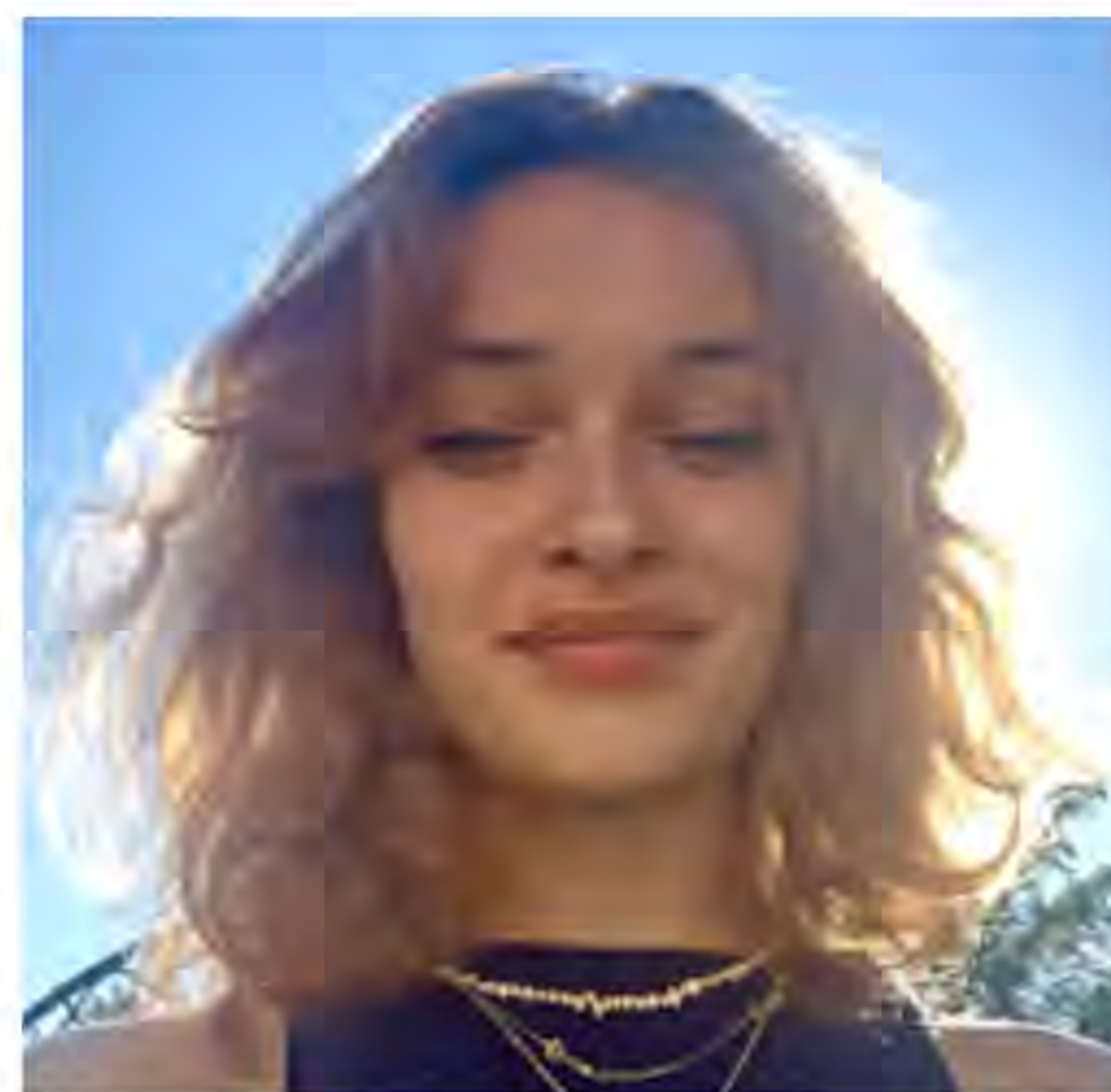


photo courtesy of Ms. Worth

Chang Chavkin Scholar Rochele Worth

WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

photo by Ed Harvey



On the road with a very large *Ursus Americanus*

For this installment of Wildlife Neighbors, let's go from macro to micro, starting with a really, really big bear that Ed Harvey's long lens captured down in Clayton, on the Mill River Clayton Road beside the big corn field in mid-June. A 600mm. lens seems like a good choice in this circumstance!

Sticking with our ursine friends, Robin Tost caught an amazing moment back on May 24. Her photo of a mama bear sucking on a hummingbird feeder at her kitchen window has drawn a lot of attention on social media. Of that moment Robin wrote, "Yesterday I saw my first hummingbird so I put out the feeder and today I got a customer. I know hummingbirds, and you, Madam, are NO hummingbird." This bear has two cubs, and could be the same mother and children that have been keeping Liz Goodman's fearless dog Bitsy busy down the road a bit from Robin.



photo by Robin Tost

A sweet-toothed visitor

photo by Ed Harvey



A snapping turtle preparing to deposit her eggs

Ed Harvey came upon this venerable snapping turtle in early June – smaller than a bear, but pound for pound equally impressive. "I spotted this Konkapot River queen as she was presumably looking for a spot to lay eggs in our backyard." Sightings of female snappers were common all over New Marlborough for a period of several days in mid-June, with reports of a number of roadside rescues. The biological imperative to further the species was not limited to snapping turtles though, as numerous painted turtles were also observed selecting just the right spot to lay their clutch of eggs.



photo by Ed Harvey

A cottontail reflects upon himself

photo by Rebecca Schreiber



A yellow warbler sees its mirror image

The Konkapot River that runs right behind his house is a rich source of photographic subjects for Ed Harvey. He spotted a very reflective cottontail rabbit at the edge of water. Maybe his name is Narcissus?

Not the only one interested in a natural selfie, a yellow warbler was observed by Rebecca Schreiber on June 16. "This fine friend spent several hours with us last weekend. Is he admiring himself or admonishing a perceived competitor?"



photo by John Schreiber

An ant herding aphids on a milkweed leaf

Getting to the really small stuff, John Schreiber spotted on June 13 an example of symbiosis, or mutualism, on a milkweed plant on the Questing

STAGE NUMBER	AGE IN HOURS AT 18° CENTIGRADE	LENGTH IN MILLIMETERS
18 96 4	MUSCULAR RESPONSE	
19 118 5	HEART BEAT	
20 140 6	GILL CIRCULATION HATCHING	
21 162 7	MOUTH OPEN CORNEA TRANSPARENT	
22 192 8	TAIL FIN CIRCULATION	

courtesy of Roberts Rugh

Tadpole stages of development

Reservation. "This picture is of an ant tending to aphids which secrete a sweet substance that ants like to lick. In return, the ant protects the aphids from predators." The ants are very much like cattle farmers, herding the aphids through their "pastures," extracting their honeydew, and even guiding them to their nests at night. For those readers who are intrigued by the awesome capabilities of ants, seek out the extensive writings of E.O. Wilson.

In another peek into the realms of tiny critters, also on June 13, Joe Burke noticed a large mass of developing embryos in his parents' farm pond – perhaps 500 or more specks suspended in a viscous gel. To find out what these creatures might be, we reached out to our resident microbiology expert John Schreiber, who came through in fine fashion: "Oh yes, amphibian eggs of some type, frog or toad most likely – early tadpoles in the egg mass." He then followed up with, "My mom used to work on frog embryology, and I lifted this image from a 1951 book that she owned on the subject by Roberts Rugh, for whom she worked. It looks like development stage #20 of the tadpole!"



photo by Joe Burke

Early stage tadpoles

Readers, keep sending in your wildlife findings, large and small! □

Compiled by Larry Burke.

Send your sightings to him at larryjburke@gmail.com

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LAND TRUST NEWS

Summer is upon us. Find your freedom and peace outdoors. The Land Trust wants to remind those veterans of our trails and to inform those new to town of the variety of hiking and outdoor experiences in New Marlborough. If you do not yet have the second edition of our trail guide, be sure to pick up a copy. You can purchase it at the Southfield Store, The Bookloft in Great Barrington, or by requesting a copy at nmlandtrust@gmail.com.

The guide describes eleven trail options and here are a few must-dos:

Take your family to the **suspension bridge at Thousand Acre Swamp**. From the trailhead off Hotchkiss Road, the walk to the bridge and picnic site is an easy flat, half-mile walk. At the picnic site, admire the engineering of both human and beaver – the ingenious construction of the suspension bridge by a local craftsman and the complicated beaver dam. If you are lucky you might sight the bald eagle that nests near the inlet at the beaver dam. It is a perfect place to pause and be quiet and wait for some creature to surprise you with its activity.

If you are adventurous and up for a longer walk, plan on making East Indies Pond your destination. Know however, that shortly beyond the bridge, one enters Cookson State Forest where the trail blazes are spotty. We are waiting on an upgrade from the state on trail marking in general in Cookson State Forest. (Note: Cookson is 2,100+ acres and is wild territory. Navigational skills and a trail partner are recommended.)

Visit the **Lower Carroll Mill at the Goodnow Preserve**, another wonderland in our midst. If you prefer a short walk to the mill, start at the trailhead at the rear of the Mill River Cemetery. For a longer loop walk (2-plus miles), start at the new parking area at the entrance to the preserve. Parking is available at both points of entry.

Dated from the 1850s, the stone ruins are a sight to behold, and, if you want to get your feet wet, the Konkapot River is accessible at the base of the mill. You will find a story board which describes the history of the mill and a schematic of the remaining mill components. The mill site is wide open for a child's imagination and a travel back in time to when Mill River was part of a thriving paper production industry in the Berkshires.

If you are up for traveling further afield, two suggestions among the zillions of adventures in our area beyond the bounds of New Marlborough are:

Diane's Trail in Monterey: Perhaps a good introductory hike for grandchildren, Diane's trail is a self-guided nature trail. By car, turn south off Route 23 onto Curtis Road in Monterey. You will see the trailhead on your left. Continue to a west turn onto Gould Road to a parking area fifty feet beyond the turn on the right. Pamphlets are available at the trailhead, and there are markings along the way to match the descriptions in the pamphlet. An easy trail for all ages to explore wetlands and woods. There are often animals from Gould Farm in the fields nearby.

West Lake in Sandisfield, a sixty-acre pond within the Sandisfield State Forest. By car, turn off Sandisfield Road (Route 57) onto West Road, go roughly three miles to a right turn and the entrance at 56 West Road. There are stone pillars at the road entrance. This is a quiet gem. There is a small beach access: fishing, paddling, bird watching, daydreaming. The shoreline is completely undisturbed. During a recent visit, observing the behavior of a great blue heron was a special treat. This is a place for quiet and peace in nature.

And finally, if you are looking for something special for the family on July 4 weekend, visit the **StoryWalk at the Goodnow Preserve**. Co-hosted by the New Marlborough Library and the New Marlborough Land Trust, this is a unique opportunity for the family to enjoy reading while walking the Lower Carroll Mill loop trail. Please see more details in this issue on the Library page. □

Executive Director Martha Bryan

STICKS & STONES

AN INVITATIONAL MIXED MEDIA SHOW

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS: CYNTHIA ATWOOD,
LEE BACKER, JANE BURKE, ERIK CALLAHAN,
LESLEE CARSEWELL, EUGENE CLEARY,
SANDRA COYNE, JACOB FOSSUM,
SHELLEY HAVEN, PAT HOGAN,
WENDY JENSEN, RICHARD KIMBALL,
NIKOLAS KOTOVICH, FRED KOTOWICZ,
MARK MENDEL, BRIAN MIKESELL,
PETER MURKETT, ELLEN MURTAGH,
ELMER OROBIO, PEGGY REEVES,
TIMOTHY SLEEPER

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THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- May 1 9:40 a.m. Wires down on Clayton Mill River Road.
- May 2 9:38 a.m. A vehicle that is uninsured and has a suspended registration is towed after being stopped for speeding on Clayton Mill River Road.
- May 3 2:03 p.m. After a caller, concerned for the safety of nearby walkers, reports a hunter's tree stand near the CCC monument on South Sandisfield Road, the Massachusetts Environmental Police are alerted.
- May 4 11:11 a.m. Verizon is notified that wires are down on Sisson Hill Road.
- 5:58 p.m. A driver whose vehicle is parked in the roadway at the intersection of Hartsville New Marlborough and Corashire Roads while she sends an email is asked to move to a safer location.
- 7:22 p.m. The Highway Department is alerted to a tree down on North Road.
- May 7 1:19 p.m. A Hartsville Mill River Road resident reports that a large snake is at her doorstep.
- May 9 3:09 p.m. Two horses loose on Rhoades and Bailey Road are returned to their barn by the animal control officer.
- May 10 7:45 p.m. A caller reports a mother bear and two cubs in the yard near his Norfolk Road residence; a second call at 8:41 p.m. reports that the adult bear has moved to the back porch.
- May 11 5:00 p.m. A driver reports that he hit a deer on Clayton Mill River Road.
- May 14 9:31 p.m. A part-time resident reports an apparent break-in at her Foley Hill Road house but later determines that a contractor had left the front door unlocked.
- May 15 4:12 p.m. A caller complains of loud partying on a boat on Lake Buel.
- May 17 3:13 p.m. The Highway Department is informed of a tree down on Keyes Hill Road.
- May 19 7:30 p.m. A Southfield resident asks that the Department be on the lookout for her ex-husband, who has been issued a restraining order for stalking her, and who she suspects has been present in her yard while she was away.
- May 20 4:56 p.m. A caller reports damage to her car caused, she claimed, by construction on Canaan Valley Road.
- 7:13 p.m. An officer assists a driver who has locked himself out of his vehicle on Norfolk Road.
- May 22 6:06 a.m. The animal control officer is summoned after a caller reports goats loose on Sisson Hill Road.
- 7:40 p.m. The animal control officer transports six baby raccoons, sighted near a residence on Canaan Southfield Road, to a wildlife rehab center.
- May 25 12:41 p.m. A caller notifies the Department of a vehicle abandoned near his Mill River Southfield Road residence.
- 12:54 p.m. An officer escorts a Hartsville Mill River Road homeowner from her house where a bear has taken up residence in a front-yard tree.
- May 27 7:29 a.m. A caller reports a tree down on Canaan Southfield Road, blocking traffic in both directions.
- 1:35 p.m. A Southfield resident reports receiving threatening and abusive scam calls.
- May 29 3:00 p.m. An officer removes a tree stand illegally erected near the CCC monument on South Sandisfield Road.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

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FIRE AND RESCUE

May 1	4:30 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call	May 22	9:23 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield LifeStar Landing/ATV Rescue
May 1	5:03 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call	May 25	2:33 a.m.	Church Road Medical Call
May 4	12:04 a.m.	Lumbert Cross Road Medical Call	May 28	7:40 a.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Fire Alarm
May 4	11:10 a.m.	Canaan Valley Road Fire Alarm	May 28	1:45 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Fire Alarm
May 4	1:15 p.m.	River Road Medical Call	May 29	7:10 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
May 5	7:26 p.m.	Alum Hill Road Medical Call	May 29	8:00 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
May 6	12:25 a.m.	Konkapot Road Medical Call	May 30	12:44 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
May 7	10:10 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm	May 31	11:16 a.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
May 8	8:52 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call	May 31	8:18 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
May 16	12:05 p.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call	May 31	9:17 p.m.	Sisson Hill Road LifeStar Landing/ Medical Call
May 17	3:53 p.m.	South Sandisfield Road Fire Alarm			
May 18	9:38 a.m.	East Hill Road Fire Alarm			
May 19	8:40 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Fire Alarm			
May 20	9:20 a.m.	Umpachene Falls Road Medical Call			
May 20	8:37 p.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call			

Fire Company President David Smith

Mark Your Calendars: The New Marlborough Fire Company Pig Roast returns this year on Saturday, August 21, 5:00 p.m. at the fire station in Southfield. More details to come and tickets available soon, but the event will also include the return of the Grand Raffle, with great prizes also soon to be announced. Call David Smith, 413-229-0291 for more information. □

Fire Department President David Smith



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THE SCHOOL REPORT

At Southern Berkshire Regional School District a lot of thought is put into marking educational transitions. The easing of restrictions on gatherings in June made it possible for students and their families to gather to recognize students' achievements and celebrate their movement onto the next phase of their lives. The series of outdoor gatherings started at 10:00 a.m. on June 5 with the Mount Everett Regional School Commencement, held for the second consecutive year on the baseball field at the school instead of at Tanglewood. The weather was beautiful and there was plenty of space allotted for extended families to witness the big day. Spirits were high as the Mount Everett band played. Students sat together to hear the advice offered by the speakers. The welcome address by salutatorian Madison Tinker poignantly addressed the need to put "yourself out there," something she admitted she had not done herself until the last months of her school career. The Honors Speech by Cecelia Caldwell similarly focused on her experience staying in the background, until her participation in a Shakespeare performance during her junior year helped her find her true voice. As the forty-eight graduates filed past the podium to receive their diplomas, it was clear that these young adults were more than ready to go on to new challenges.

The Middle School Recognition Night was held on the afternoon of June 16 on the same playing field, and with a similar gathering of supportive family members. The two student ambassadors, Leslye Bautista-Cruz and Jacob Kries, did a fine job of reflecting on their past years in the schools and looking forward to their high school experiences. Students were recognized for the achievements with awards such as Most Outstanding Math Student, Most Improved Science Student, and Most Improved Student Overall. Each walked in front of the crowd to receive their diplomas, some awkwardly keeping eyes on the ground and others striding proudly.

The New Marlborough Central School Recognition Night was staged on the early evening of June 10. Family groups were seated on the playing field as the procession of third and fourth grade students paraded towards them. This year both grades will be leaving the school and will be welcomed into the new upper elementary program for fourth and fifth graders at Undermountain Elemen-



photos by Jane Burke

New Marlborough Central School Recognition Night was held outdoors on June 10. From the school building the third and fourth graders formed a procession toward the eagerly awaiting audience, composed of family groups sitting socially distanced from each other.



Nancy Crawford was saluted for her long years of service in support of New Marlborough Central students.

tary School. Fourth grade teacher Tom Masters led the proceedings. He opened with a thank you to the assembled parents for the wonderful support they gave the teachers and staff over this challenging year. The ceremony included comments by principal Charles Miller about how the NMC team will always be rooting for them, a jaunty dramatic reading of a story by the whole faculty, and a recognition of Nancy Crawford, who is retiring after twenty-five years as an educational support professional at the school. Students were called up to receive awards, including some fanciful ones such as Dancing Queen, Biggest Heart, and Most Boisterous.

Overall, under sunny skies and with the loosening of pandemic restrictions, the celebrations of these young people left the participants feeling cheerful and full of optimism. □



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An enthusiastic group of young investigators gathered in Mill River on June 26 for the monthly Science at the Library, funded by the New Marlborough Cultural Council. Science educator Jane Burke guided the children through four different experiments. Alleeah was all smiles to be at the chemical engineering of clay table. On her own she weighed out each mineral and created her 100 grams of clay, which she shaped into the letter A for firing.

**Thank You
to Our Contributors:**

Susan Rosenthal; Judy Papachristou;
Anthony & Marjorie Consolini;
Sue & Arnie Cohen;
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Sy & Edi Mayerson;
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The Woman with the Blue Star, by Pam Jenoff
In Times of Rain and War, by Cameron Wright

Adult Nonfiction

The Burning: the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, by Tim Madigan
The Immortals: The World War II Story of Five Fearless Heroes, the Sinking of the Dorchester, and an Awe-Inspiring Rescue, by Steve T. Collins
Killing the Mob: The Fight Against Organized Crime in America, by Bill O'Reilly
X Troop: The Secret Jewish Commandos of World War II, by Leah Garrett
Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times, by Katherine May
The Premonition, by Michael Lewis



Summer Library Hours

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

Mark your calendars...!!

The New Marlborough Town Library and
 New Marlborough Land Trust
 welcome you to join in on their first

StoryWalk®, Saturday, July 3 to Monday, July 5



Along the Land Trust trails at the Goodnow Preserve you will find the pages of *Possum and the Peeper*, a storybook written and illustrated by Anne Hunter. A StoryWalk® is an inventive activity that fifty states and thirteen countries have participated in. It's a fun, family-friendly event to get your kids excited about partaking in both nature and literature. After signing our guest book at the kiosk in the Land Trust parking lot, follow the arrows to begin your adventure. The pages of our storybook will be laminated and staked from one end of the trail to the other, leading you to the end of the story! On your way, keep your peepers peeled for a hidden clue!

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

So, again, July 3 – July 5 at the Goodnow Preserve. (From the Mill River Store heading south, turn left at the stop sign onto Mill River Southfield Road. Passing the New Marlborough Town Hall on your right, go one mile to the entrance of the Preserve, which will be on your right.)

For questions or more details contact the library at 413-229-6668/newmarlborough@gmail.com, or Martha Bryan at nmlandtrust@gmail.com

AND

Calling Young Artists — Exhibit Your Creations!

YOUNG ARTISTS CELEBRATE NEW MARLBOROUGH

Last year, as the pandemic ravaged the country, the Town of New Marlborough sadly cancelled our rich schedule of cultural events that the community had planned for the 2020 summer season. Thanks to the enthusiasm, imagination, and talent of our youngest citizens, The New Marlborough Meeting House and The New Marlborough Library co-sponsored an outdoor art exhibit on the Green, called, "Art in the Time of Quarantine: Young Artists Celebrate New Marlborough." The show was such a success that we have decided to invite young artists (between the ages of 5 and 14) to celebrate New Marlborough again!



Date: August 7 Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Place: The New Marlborough Village Green
 For details and to register, contact Deb O'Brien at 413-229-6668 or newmarlborough@gmail.com

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

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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 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. or by appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

Southfield (413) 229-8476

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

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

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

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

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

Dog and Animal Control Officer: Cassie Keeley, (413) 429-7603

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

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Library: 229-6668

Transfer Station Hours:

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

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

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

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We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

Larry Burke, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Robbi Hartt, Barbara Lowman, David Lowman, Steven Nester, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro.
Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger, Fiona Kerr.

Index: Donna Weaver

NM5VN Board of Directors

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at

www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated August 2021.

All copy must be submitted no later than July 17.

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

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