

# New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton ♦ Hartsville ♦ Mill River ♦ New Marlborough ♦ Southfield

## TICK CHECK!



### *Non-toxic Repellent Tips from Outdoors Experts*

By Zoë Kogan

Natural tick protection remedies in the Berkshires can be as varied as chicken soup recipes, but which approach works best? This newbie New Marlborough resident (former NYC idiot) asked a few life-long local outdoor experts for their natural tick repellent advice.

If there's someone you want by your side when battling the elements or communing with nature, it's Tes Reed. A pioneer in outdoor education, Tes has been leading programs for children and adults over two decades both at Flying Deer Nature Center and at tesreed.com. She's also a citizen tracker for wildlife species, a New Marlborough Land Trust board member, and a former criminal investigator who has done her research on ticks.

Tes has learned a lot by being in the wild her entire life, including overcoming tick-borne diseases, which caused the left side of her body to become paralyzed for six months, after which she had to relearn how to walk.

Now completely healed and back in the woods, Tes believes no one should let fear stop them from experiencing nature. She's dedicated her life to helping others explore the wild and through her own experience teaches her students how to protect themselves from ticks — using simple but effective precautions. Says Tes, "It's really sad that people don't want to go outdoors because of the ticks. Let's



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just learn about all these critters in this world that we're just guests on."

Tes believes the best tick prevention is awareness and tick checking. "My generation did not learn to do this, because they didn't have ticks in the same way back then. But the young kids are on it, they're growing up with it, and we're reminding them." In her wilderness education programs, Tes has conducted tick experiments by spraying a sheet half with chemical tick repellent and half with natural tick repellent then dragging the sheet through the forest. The results were surprising because the ticks attached to both the natural and chemical tick-repellent-sprayed parts of the sheet. Based on her results Tes concluded, "Neither of the sprays really works; you'll get the same amount of ticks on you either way."

Tes also experimented with wearing light colors or dark colors, this time dragging a light sheet versus a dark sheet through the woods. Though it was harder to see the ticks on the dark material, after the final count it turned out that the light sheet gathered more ticks. She observed the same phenomena over the years on her horses, cats and dogs with lighter fur as compared to those with darker fur. The white fur also seemed to attract more ticks.

Scientific research confirms Tes's observations. According to a 2005 article in the *Scandinavian Journal of Infectious Diseases* entitled "Detecting Ticks on Light Versus Dark Clothing," Louise Stjernberg and Johan Berglund stated that, out of ten partic-



**DOG TICK**  
*Dermacentor Variabilis*



**DEER TICK**  
*Ixodes Scapularis*



**LONE STAR TICK**  
*Amblyomma americanum*

*continued*

ipants wearing light or dark clothes in a tick dense area, out of the 886 ticks collected, there were 20.8 percent more ticks on the individuals wearing light clothes.

But what if you're not going into the woods but just out in the backyard? For the gardeners cultivating food and flowers, I spoke with outdoor expert Katie Herbst. Katie manages the farm and garden program at Stanton Home – a residential life-sharing home for adults with disabilities. Katie's in charge of growing the food for their community while integrating the residents and participants into as much of the process as possible. A biodynamic farmer, singer-songwriter and outdoor educator, Katie's first line of defense is preparation.

Tick prevention for all the participating residents at Stanton Home can be challenging. Like Tes, Katie's found that, "all of the natural stuff that is topical wears off really fast. It's hard to have something that stays effective long enough on my skin to be a deterrent, considering the amount of time I spend outside and the amount of movement and sweating and brushing up against things. So putting it on my clothes has been the best method. I may be a tick magnet. I find them on me all the time, not sure if it's a blood type thing. Ticks seem to seek me out. So I'm hypervigilant about checking.

The most success Katie's had with topicals was recommended by a fellow farmer who swore by cedarwood essential oil. What's interesting is that Katie does not spray on cedarwood oil before going outside. Instead, it's all about the laundry. Katie washes her clothes with several drops of cedarwood essential oil, using eight to ten drops of cedarwood essential oil in unscented detergent with each load of laundry. Next she adds eight to ten drops of cedarwood oil to a wool dryer ball, which she adds to the dryer cycle.

Katie's second line of tick defense is checking her body for ticks at regular intervals throughout the workday. Tick checks are part of her daily routine. Any time she feels something on her body she checks immediately, then again every time she goes to the bathroom. After work she checks again in the shower. Like Tes, using a lot of awareness and vigilance to stay tick-free, these critters never discourage Katie from being outside.

A 2022 study on repellency and toxicity of a CO<sub>2</sub>-derived cedarwood oil on hard tick species published in *SpringerLink*, an online scientific document data base, validates Katie's use of cedarwood essential oil as an effective form of tick repellent. The data provides evidence that cedarwood oil repels nymphs of five tick species, and worked as well as DEET.

Katie also wondered if she could be a tick magnet due to her blood type. According to one study in the *Annals of Agricultural and Environmental Medicine* from the Czech Republic, human blood type is a factor when it comes to the likelihood of getting a tick bite. Using 100 ticks and blood samples from human volunteers, the ticks were placed in petri dishes equidistant from the different blood drops.



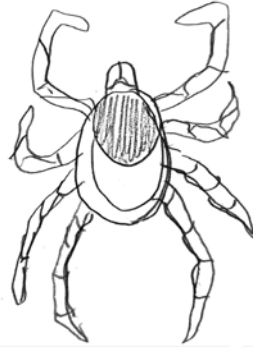
They were then given several minutes to select their preference. The findings were that the ticks were attracted most to type A (36 percent) and least to type B (15 percent), with Type O coming in a close second at 32 percent.

But how can you prevent tick bites while hiking with no opportunity to shower and change? I asked an avid outdoorsman, farmer, chef, butcher, baker, carpenter, and philosopher with a PhD in living, Jeremy Stanton. Jeremy trekked 330 miles on the Appalachian trail. "Now this may not be great for your article," said Jeremy, "but

on that trail, Pyrethrin was sprayed on clothes daily by one of my teammates." Pyrethrin is a synthetic derivative of chrysanthemum flower.

Yet, in his everyday life on the farm, Jeremy takes an organic approach to tick prevention: "I feel them on me very soon, even on my clothing somehow. I don't wear shorts. Boots, long pants, and a long sleeve shirt. I cover my body with clothes that are semi-sealed. Here's the thing, I don't use any substances like cedar oil or oregano oil, but I do have a protocol. Because ticks wait at the end of plants and then grip onto you, I check my body while working, especially my sleeves or abdomen. After I'm done working outside, it's clothes off and into the washing machine, and then I get in the shower. I think the number one thing to prevent tick bites is body awareness. Once I feel a tick, I go nuts with checking, my awareness goes up even when I see one on my dog."

Tes, Katie, and Jeremy share a tick prevention state of mind centered around body awareness and checking, always keeping a mindset of vigilance and preventative measures when it comes to ticks. To sum up: 1) Plan ahead – dress in socks, boots, long-sleeve shirts, and hats – basically cover as much of your body as possible with fabric. 2) Check your body whenever you feel something crawling on your skin or clothes, or every time you use the bathroom. 3) At the end of the day remove all clothes and wash them in eight to ten drops of cedar oil mixed with detergent, and check your body in the shower. 4) Go outside again and enjoy the woods! With this protocol, you're set up to catch and remove those critters before they get comfortable.



A drawing of this article's subject by the author's daughter, Nina, age 13



## A CHANGING OF THE GUARD

At its June 10 meeting, the New Marlborough Historical Society Board of Directors elected John Schreiber president. Joe Poindexter, who had served as president since the rebirth of the Society in 2009, expressed his appreciation of John's willingness to take the post and thanked him for his energetic leadership over the past two years in organizing the renovation of the Campbell Falls Stone Arch Bridge and spearheading the removal of white pines from the New Marlborough Village cemetery. Dr. Schreiber said that the removal of three remaining pines — their falling branches damage headstones — would complete the project.

Campbell Falls Bridge repair moves forward, albeit slowly. Two years ago, a specialist in historic stone arch structures provided the Society with a blueprint for repair of the bridge, and last year, members of the community contributed generously to a designated bridge-repair fund. Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, an enthusiastic proponent of repair-



*With the replacement of a broken sign, New Marlborough Village is "historic" once again.*

*photo by Joe Poindexter*

ing the bridge (rather than replacing it with a concrete span), is now seeking a Massachusetts Department of Transportation Small Bridge Grant, endorsed by State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, to fund a comprehensive engineering report that will meet MassDOT guidelines. If the grant is awarded, Mr. Loring will pursue a second grant to help cover construction costs.

As most residents are aware, two New Marlborough villages, Mill River and New Marlborough, have been awarded a federal designation as "historic." Signage alerting motorists they are entering a historic village, however, has not fared well when confronted by roadside equipment or wide trucks. Mill River resident Dan Alden has twice repaired broken signs, but a second break to the one west of New Marlborough village could not be re-glued. Happily, its replacement has finally arrived — this one fabricated not from polystyrene, as in the past, but a more durable aluminum. The Society is now investigating historic designation for Southfield. □

### UPCOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

The Society will hold its **2023 Annual Meeting** at the New Marlborough Meeting House, Saturday, July 8, at 11:00 a.m. Those wishing to join are invited to arrive a few minutes before the meeting to register for membership.

A **headstone repair and cleaning session** will be held at the Mill River Cemetery (opposite New Marlborough Central School) Saturday, September 9, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. You bring the elbow grease; the Society will supply brushes, tools, and a specially formulated cleaning fluid.

Finally, the pandemic-postponed **First Friday** series will resume with a program on October 6 at 7:00 p.m. Stay tuned for details.

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## Town Business Is Your Business SELECT BOARD



**May 22:** As directed by an initiative voted at its last meeting, the selectmen opened the meeting with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

In the first order of business, Tara White said she had received a letter from Construct Executive Director Jane Ralph informing the Select Board that **Construct, as the owner of Cassilis Farm, had reached no consensus as to the question of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes and that the matter would be revisited at Construct's next board meeting, June 21.** Ms. White expressed her disappointment, noting that when it was a privately-held property Cassilis paid \$22,000 a year.

Next, the Board voted to accept a fixed-price bid of \$3.339 a gallon for diesel fuel (\$3.439 for diesel with an additive that prevents congealing for winter use) from Dennis K. Burke, Inc. The winning bidder for heating oil is Mirabito Energy Products at \$3.06 per gallon. The FY24 prices are 90 cents and \$1.40, respectively, lower than this year's prices.

**Ms. White then noted that the Town, in accordance with a new state regulation, would be putting up road signs warning drivers to maintain four feet of clearance when passing bicyclists and pedestrians.** It will be left to Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring to determine where the signs, which will be provided by the state, will be posted.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to house-keeping items: A Rural and Small Town grant application to convert a unit at Cassilis Farm into workforce housing will be filed by June 2; the Town will apply for a \$1 million MassWorks grant to repave the section of Norfolk Road between the Southfield Store and Southfield Branch Road; a call will be posted for a volunteer


to fill a vacancy on the Cemetery Commission (this year's ballot erroneously listed Tammi Palmer, whose term does not expire until May 2026); and the Board granted the request of Rebecca Wagner, clerk of the Board of Assessors, to carry over fifteen hours of unused vacation.

Ms. White gavelled the session to a close inside an hour.

**June 1:** With Human Resources Director Sophia Bletsos in attendance, the Board reviewed an amendment to the Town's personnel policy dealing with overtime compensation. **Following a lengthy discussion on what constituted overtime, the Board opted to define it as that in excess of forty hours a week, as well as, in the case of Police or Highway Department employees, the time beyond an eight-hour day worked because of extenuating circumstances.**

Before adjourning, Town Administrator Mari Enoch reported that the \$3,000 that had been earmarked to be withdrawn from the Reserve Fund for removal of storm-damaged pine boughs from the New Marlborough Cemetery could be restored to it. John Field, who had been hired to clean up the cemetery said that he was donating his services. (At its next meeting, the Board elected to send Mr. Field a letter of appreciation.)

**June 5:** The Board opened the meeting with a further review of the overtime policy it had worked out at its previous meeting, then voted to adopt the following statement of the policy: "Hourly employees who exceed forty hours of actual work time in a workweek will be compensated at 1.5 times their regular hourly rate for all hours worked in excess of forty hours. Working more than forty hours per week cannot occur without prior authorization from a department head. Employ-

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ees in the Highway Department and the Police Department will receive overtime compensation for any hours worked beyond an eight-hour shift if they are required to stay beyond the end of the shift due to extenuating circumstances.”

It then ratified a newly adopted set of Transfer Station fees (see the fee schedule below). Next, it took up a request from Jennie Wright to authorize the removal of a dying elm tree near her property on Wright Lane in New Marlborough village. Since Ms. Wright is the aunt of Tree Warden Matt Wright, she wanted the Board’s okay to avoid any hint of a conflict of interest. The Board authorized the removal — and noted that there is money in the Tree Warden’s budget to cover the cost.

Moving on, the Board approved a recommendation from Cultural Council member Wendy Miller by naming Klea Simakis, subject to confirmation that Ms. Simakis is a resident of New Marlborough, to fill a vacancy on the Council for a term that ends December 31, 2025. **It authorized a grant application of \$1 million to MassWorks to repave that portion of Norfolk Road from East Hill to Southfield Branch Roads and one to the Rural and Small Town Development Commission for \$500,000 to assist in the conversion of a unit at Casilis Farm to worker housing.** And it approved sending a letter of appreciation to MassDOT for its oversight of the reconstruction of the Norfolk bridge, which was completed six weeks ahead of schedule.

Finally, Ms. White said that **Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring had identified seven town roads as candidates for the posting of signs — twenty-six in all — warning drivers to provide a four-foot margin of safety when passing pedestrians and bicyclists.** They are: New Marlborough Sandisfield, Hartsville New Marlborough, Mill River Great Barrington, County, Clayton

Mill River, Canaan Southfield, and Norfolk Roads.

**June 12:** In an update, Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring said that he was nearing the completion of repairs to Foley Hill Road and that he planned to add a rubber chip coating to complete the renovation of Knight Road.

A lengthy discussion of the location of stop signs on New Marlborough roads focused on the need for an additional sign at the juncture of Norfolk, Mill River Southfield, and New Marlborough Southfield Roads. Additionally, Ms. White noted that the stop signs on Norfolk Road where it is met by Canaan Southfield Road were designed to eliminate the need for a stop on the Canaan Southfield Road terminal incline but may need to be rethought because drivers typically ran the Norfolk Road stop signs. Clayton Four Corners also entered the discussion, with Ms. White pointing out that the Connecticut-Massachusetts state line may run through the intersection,

which could complicate the question of stop signs. The Board decided it needed the advice of Police Chief Graham Frank and tabled stop sign decisions to a future meeting.

The Board then moved on to the approval of **sixty employees and committee members for FY24.** Twelve others were postponed to a later meeting. These were: Town Administrator Mari Enoch, who is also chief procurement officer, Police Chief and Animal Control Officer Graham Frank, and Highway Superintendent and Fire Chief Chuck Loring, all of whom are on contract; seven members of the Police Department; and the three members of the Citizen Advisory Committee, a group that has overseen a housing grant disbursement and may no longer have a function. (See appointments page 6.)

**Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring has identified seven town roads as candidates for the posting of signs — twenty-six in all — warning drivers to provide a four-foot margin of safety when passing pedestrians and bicyclists.**

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**Transfer Station charges**

Annual permit: \$225

Car tires: \$5 each

Truck tires: \$8 each

Small tractor tires: \$30 each

Construction site debris: \$65 to \$270,  
depending on the size of the truckload

Upholstered chair: \$25

Sofa, sleeper: \$50

Electronics, appliances (containing Freon): \$25 each

Mattresses, box spring: \$125 each

Large tractor, loader tires: \$400 each

**Employee, Committee Member Appointments**

Accountant: Tara White

Assistant Gas and Plumbing Inspector: Donald Hopkins

Assistant Tax Collector and Treasurer: Kathy Chretien

Board of Health Agent: Scott McFarland

Board of Registrars: Alicia Brazie, Sharon Fleck

Building Commissioner: Matthew Kollmer

Burial/Soldier's Grave Agent: Courtney Turner

Cable Advisory Committee, Broc Kerr, John Valente

Capital Planning Working Group: Richard Butt

Commission on Disabilities: Marsha Pshenishny, Sharon Fleck

Conservation Commission: John Schreiber, Nanci Worthington, Frederick Friedman, Douglas Hyde

Council on Aging: Joan Hotaling, Jane Beers, Prudence Spaulding, Merrie Abolafia, Sharon Fleck

Director of Senior Services: Prudence Spaulding

Emergency Management Director: Barbara Marchione

Gas Inspector: Robert Krupski

Highway Planning Working Group: Mark Carson, Charles Loring, Barbara Marchione

Historical Commission: John Schreiber, Claudette Callahan

Housing Development Committee: Elizabeth Rosenberg, Richard Long, Joseph Poindexter, Kenzie Fields,  
Susan Moyer, Will Regan

Lake Buel Preservation District: Christopher Hassett

Plumbing Inspector: Robert Krupski

Regional Transportation Commission Representative: Prudence Spaulding

Solid Waste Coordinator; Frederick Friedman

Tax Collector, Treasurer: Jessica Horan

Town Counsel: Jeremia Pollard

Transfer Station Working Group: Tara White, Frederick Friedman, Josephine Halvorson, Charles Loring

Umpachene Falls Park Commission: Robert Twing, Elaine Mack, Katelyn Dawson, Terry Ferrara

Wiring Inspector: Michael Leining

Zoning Board of Appeals: Courtney Turney, John Miller, Peter DiPierro (alternate)

□

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## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**June 15:** Mark Stinson, circuit rider from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), joined the Zoom meeting convened by Commission members Freddy Friedman, Doug Hyde, and John Schreiber.

The meeting started with a request from the New Marlborough Highway Department to continue its hearing for a Notice of Intent (NOI) until next month, pending input from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). A continuance was granted.

Matt Puntin of SK Design then introduced a Request for Determination Applicability (RDA) for his clients Ben and Cornelia Webster of 173 Adsit Crosby Road. At issue is the construction of a single-family dwelling with a proposed walk-out basement which will require minimal grading in the buffer zone. There was a brief discussion concerning erosion controls on the steep bank to the Konkapot River and agreement that no further permitting was necessary. Two conditions for the determination were included: that the Commission has permission to visit the site while the work is being done and that no heavy equipment would be used beyond the erosion controls located on the permit map.

Tom Harvey of Rennia Engineering Design addressed the Commission on behalf of Camp Wa Wa Segowea. Mr. Harvey explained that the foundation of the main camp building is failing on the lakeside and must be repaired. The Commission asked that a twelve-foot corridor on the lakeside be maintained without disruption from equipment or removal of any vegetation. Mark Stinson then alerted the applicant that Harmon Pond is a Massachusetts Great Pond and is protected by Chapter 91, the Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act. Mr. Stinson noted that the camp does not have a current Chapter 91 license and that, after a license is obtained, the Commission can then review the current RDA request. Mr. Harvey agreed to obtain the necessary license and to submit a revised plan at next month's meeting. The hearing was continued until next month.

Commission member Freddy Friedman then recused himself for the review of an RDA for work to be done at the dam on his property at 1584 Norfolk Road. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation has requested that the drainage pipe at the dam be repaired. The Commission agreed that re-sleeving the existing pipe would not impact the resource area and that no further permitting was needed.

Chris Tryon of Berkshire Geo-Technologies presented an NOI for construction of a dock and steps for his client, Jack Tolin of 114 Downs Road on Lake Buel. Since the NHESP has not yet submitted comments on the permit, the hearing was continued until next month.

Beth Romaker of Matt's Landscaping re-opened the

hearing for Richard Stebbins of 83 North Road and explained that the DEP has issued a project file number and all is in place for establishing a 10,000 square foot native meadow abutting an existing wetland on the property. There was some discussion about the composition of the seed mixture for the meadow and all agreed that the meadow would improve and stabilize the area near the wetland. The permit was approved with two conditions: that Ms. Romaker submit a detailed seed list for the new meadow and that the sowing would be timed so that it can be established and stabilize the bank before the ground freezes in the fall.

The Commission then revisited the issue of wetlands violations bordering Windemere Lake, at 881 and 35 Stratford Road. Bryan Siter of Foresight Land Services asked for a continuance for the NOI at 35 Stratford Road, and no representative for 881 Stratford Road was present at the meeting. Review for both hearings were continued until next month.

Moving on to new business, the Commission discussed the request from James Kimball of 1162 Clayton Mill River Road for an extension to an NOI and order of conditions issued in 2009 and expired in 2020. The Commission agreed that a new NOI would need to be submitted. The Commission then discussed the enforcement order issued to Richard Stebbins for building a new tennis court within fifty feet of a wetlands without a permit. The Commission asked that Mr. Stebbins hire a wetlands specialist to determine the extent of the disturbance to the wetlands so that a reasonable mitigation plan can be determined. The Commission requested that the data be submitted within sixty days.

Finally, the Commission discussed the receipt of a letter of complaint about gravel pit activity on Canaan Southfield Road and its impact on the wetlands. After some discussion, the Commission agreed to respond to the letter of concern and explain that the area is "questionably jurisdictional." □

Martha Bryan

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## PLANNING BOARD

**May 31:** With members Bob Hartt, Jon James, Beth Wilkinson, and Jordan Archey, along with Kenzie Fields (secretary) and Selectperson Tara White in the room, the meeting got underway at 6:00 p.m. With the arrival of Building Inspector Matt Kollmer, the main business of the evening was addressed – the continued review of aspects of the Town’s Protective Bylaw that would benefit from clarification to the language and intent.

Much of the Board’s and Mr. Kollmer’s attention was directed toward sections of the bylaw dealing with Additional Dwelling Units (ADUs), which Mr. Kollmer finds “super confusing.” Section 3.3.1.3 seems to indicate that accessory apartments can only be created from within an existing building, not outside the main structure, and not in a purpose-built addition... but, it appears, the Special Permit Granting Authority (the Select Board) may grant permission for new construction. Discussion on this point led to agreement that the bylaw should be revised to reflect that any new construction allowed by special permit be deed-restricted as workforce housing. Mr. Kollmer asked that the bylaws relating to ADUs emphasize the need to obtain a special permit for anything that is

out of the established, “by right,” criteria.

Not surprisingly, the ADU topic triggered talk about another acronym – STR (for Short Term Rental). Ms. White renewed her stance on the need for an STR by-law, citing the current lack of required inspections by the Town on such rentals, the rise in the number of calls to the police by transient renters, and the Town’s missing out on the 6 percent fee for each rental. Mr. Kollmer said that this matter is something the people of New Marlborough need to decide, whether they are concerned about the potential negative impact of STRs on town culture, or open to the economic opportunities that STRs can provide homeowners. Jordan Archey then added that her main concern was for full-time residents to see a benefit, either from changes to the rules on ADUs or an additional bylaw on STRs. Ms. White followed up by saying that, to her knowledge, the majority of short term renters are non-residents or part-timers. Chairman Hartt rounded off the discussion by saying that he thought the Planning Board should revisit the idea of framing an STR by-law, and also explore the workforce housing idea.

Back on the main topic, there was further discussion of possible refinements to the bylaw relating to apartments and new construction – clarification on expiration of variances and special permits, on who issues building permits, what the Zoning Board of Appeals’ function is, and how many units in a building constitutes a multi-family dwelling. After an hour and a half, Mr. Hartt adjourned the meeting with the understanding that the Board would try to finalize the proposed changes to the Protective Bylaw at its next meeting on June 28. □

Larry Burke



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## AND WHAT DO WE THINK

### *The Town Hall Question Is Put Before the Residents*

New Marlborough needs a town hall that is accessible to people with disabilities. Ours is not. Some three decades after passage of ADA, town governance decided it was time to come into compliance, and last month a Town Hall Planning Committee established by the Select Board (members: Barbara Marchione, chair, Rona Easton, Mari Enoch, Christopher Gregor, and Robert Hartt) asked New Marlborough citizens to weigh in on some possible solutions.

During two “listening sessions,” as they were called, nearly 100 residents (thirty-three on June 14 and sixty-five on June 17) weighed in on three scenarios — along with rough cost estimates — developed by the Committee: renovate the current town hall, \$3.2 million; acquire and renovate the former Kolburne School administrative building known as Robin Hall, \$1.9 million; or acquire land and build a new town hall, \$3.1 million. (The Trois Emme Winery property, originally under consideration, was eventually rejected.)

Those who attended the sessions questioned assumptions, offered alternatives, and finally, using a clicker technology assembled by the ever-resourceful Marc Trachtenberg, answered a straw poll that quantified their opinions. Here, totaling responses from both sessions (and not accounting for possible duplication from citizens who may have attended both) are the questions and the answers:

**“In your opinion, based on what you know, what is the best option for the town?”**

- Renovate Town Hall: 13
- Acquire and renovate Robin Hall: 42
- Acquire land and build a new town hall: 27
- Not enough information: 16

**“What is your level of support for renovating Town Hall?”**

- Very supportive: 19
- Somewhat supportive: 17
- Not supportive: 45
- Neutral: 17

**“What is your level of support for acquiring and renovating Robin Hall?”**

- Very supportive: 40



*Citizen interest in the solution to the Town Hall's future was clearly shown by the large turnout for both “listening sessions” at the Firehouse in Southfield. photo by Joe Poindexter*

- Somewhat supportive: 36
- Not supportive: 20
- Neutral: 2

**“What is your level of support for acquiring land and building a new town hall?”**

- Very supportive: 34
- Somewhat supportive: 34
- Not supportive: 24
- Neutral: 6

**“How likely are you to vote positively for any option if your taxes were to increase by 2.5 percent?”**

- Likely: 82 percent
- Unlikely: 15 percent

**“How likely are you to vote positively for any option if your taxes were to increase 4.5 percent?”**

- Likely: 41
- Unlikely: 54

**“Given what you know today, which is most important to you?”**

- Lowest cost: 6
- Best value: 59
- Preservation: 24
- No preference: 9

□

Joe Poindexter

### Thank You to Our Contributors:

Anthony & Marjorie Consolini; Taryn & Mark Leavitt; Vera Edelman; Anita E. Matthews;  
Edward B. Goodnow; Anonymous; Leonard & Hannah Golub; Elizabeth & Eugene Rosenberg;  
Ron & Mary Saunders; and Shirley & Robert Anelli

## THANK YOU, NAT!

Mill River resident **Nat Yohalem** passed away at home on June 8 at the age of eighty-six. He was raised in Mount Vernon, New York; following his graduation from Columbia Law School, he returned there to marry his wife, Louise, and to practice law for eleven years. They moved to Westfield, New Jersey in 1972, where he continued his practice in corporate and regulatory law. He was sought after for his honesty and negotiating skills. During these years he was active as a YM-YWHA board member and in local Democratic committees in both cities.

Nat and Louise had frequently visited family and friends in the Berkshires, and, in 1997, they decided to rent a home to determine whether New Marlborough was where they wanted to live, looking ahead to retirement. The answer was a resounding "Yes!" and in 2001 they bought a partially-finished house on Aberdeen Lane, which they then completed.

Nat soon became involved in town government, serving on the Finance Committee and numerous other special committees. He was elected to the Select Board in 2011, where he served for nine years, three of them as chairman. In 2022, State Representative Smitty Pignatelli presented Nat with New Marlborough's annual Elihu Burritt Award for community service, in recognition of the breadth and length of his activities in town.

He was a friend and mentor to many of all ages, as well as a middling golfer and a constant reader. Nat loved to drive, and through the years he and Louise covered forty-nine states, missing only Hawaii. In addition, they also toured nine of the twelve Canadian provinces with Nat at the wheel and Louise reading the *New York Times* to him.

Nat delayed his passing until Knight Road had been repaved. He wanted his final journey to be a smooth one.

**Owen Hoberman**, of Southfield, pays tribute to a decades-long friendship: Nat and I go back a long way – sixty-five years to be exact – when we met as first-year law school students. Over the course of these many decades, the two of us, along with our wives, developed a lasting friendship anchored by shared lunches and dinners, golf games, attendance at Select Board meetings, and Sunday morning schmoozes over coffee and muffins at the Mill River Store. My get-togethers with Nat always resulted not only in laughter and smiles, but in an appreciation of his caring personality. He was an asset to our town as well as to me.



Nat Yohalem

Photo by Nicholas Polsky

**Graham Frank** viewed an additional aspect of Nat's interests: Nat Yohalem will forever hold a space in our hearts. His sense of humor, and love for his family and community are a few qualities that stand out the most. The first time I met Nat was in 2009 when I started working for the New Marlborough Police Department. Nat's brother, Ira, also owned a house in town and had a propensity for speeding. After a few speeding tickets from the police department and several lectures from Nat, Ira slowed down.

I got to know Nat better in the following years. In 2011 Nat was elected to the Select Board, where he would serve the town for the next nine years.

As a selectman, Nat took an interest in the Police Department. He went on a few "ride alongs" with me to learn about the town from that perspective, and asked thoughtful questions related to calls and daily operations. He became a huge advocate for public safety, realizing the importance of response times for police, fire, and emergency services.

During our time together in the cruiser Nat would express his love for his wife, Louise, and their family. Their grandson, Jacob, spent one summer in the Berkshires during which he volunteered with me to organize department policies, for which I was grateful.

I believe that working with his brother to address his "heavy foot," may have planted a seed in Nat to become a police officer. In 2017 I received a Town of New Marlborough Employment Application from Nat for a part-time police officer position. I joked with Nat about being overqualified for the position. He was always very particular with wording, perhaps from being a corporate lawyer. However, under the "special skills" section of the application, Nat wrote with clarity: "I love to drive. I don't like lawbreakers. I want to wear a uniform and carry weapons." I filed his application. He did not get an interview, but it still makes me laugh.

Nat, you are greatly missed, but your humor, wit, kindness, fairness, and love will be in our memories forever.

**Barry Shapiro**, of Mill River, recalls the many facets of Nat's personality: Nat was an easy-going, pleasant man with a bottomless font of jokes, bon mots, and sometimes cynical comments that never ceased to amaze. But behind all that humor was a serious and dedicated person. And when he became dedicated to something, he was **really** dedicated to it, whether it be his darling Louise, his family, the Mets, the Town of

New Marlborough, or finding the cheapest place for lunch in Great Barrington. ("The cafeteria at Fairview Hospital," he would exclaim, as if he had found El Dorado. "A hot meal with two vegetables!")

This dedication led him to work tirelessly for this town, and his nine years serving as a selectman were wondrous to behold. I often watched him sit in Town Hall, hour after sometimes-tedious hour, as if there were nothing else on his mind and no other place he wanted to be. I would sometimes ask him how he could bear to sit there for so many hours, slugging through the often-tiresome chore of administering the Town's affairs, and his answer was always the same: "I love it."

In fact, even after Nat became ill and we spoke, as we often did, usually about our hapless Mets, Nat always brought up some issue facing the town and how he felt about it. Nat was so dedicated to the Town's affairs that one of the last times I saw him was at the Town Caucus in March where Nat, despite his illness, dutifully showed up to cast his vote, committed as ever to his civic duty and this great town.

He was an essential part of life in New Marlborough, contributed so much to our collective well-being, and will be sorely missed.

**Ralph Noveck**, formerly of Egremont, describes the contest that led off a long friendship: I first met Nat and Louise thirteen years ago at a Christmas party in Egremont, where we had recently moved. After a few dinners with our wives at Baba Louie's, he suggested that he and I meet for lunch to discuss town governmental issues, since he was a selectman in New Marlborough and I was a member of Egremont's Finance Committee. I had become aware that Nat had a strong iconoclastic streak, and one of the icons he railed against was the high cost of restaurant lunches in Great Barrington. So he suggested that we find the cheapest half-way decent lunch place in the area, and that finding it should be a contest to see which one of us could hit bottom, so to speak.

This led us to venues all over the area. There was the trip to Sheffield's Sunrise Diner: too greasy. The Fairview Hospital cafeteria was promising, but the menu was too limiting. The hot dog stand at the golf range on Route 7 was OK, but not conducive to our

elevated conversation, which soon expanded to all sorts of topics. We became fast friends and I soon learned in depth what a fair-minded, humanistic man he was. But he told many friends of our contest, and soon the locals I was introduced to would say "Oh, you're that guy Nat Yohalem has cheap lunches with." This was not what I wanted to be known for, so we decided on the café corner at the Big Y, where

we had many weekly interesting lunches, and Nat could greet his acquaintances who happened to be just shopping. Sort of like The Algonquin or Elaine's.

I will always miss those lunches.

**Michele McAuley**, of Clayton Mill River Road, served for six years with Nat on the Select Board: At his memorial celebration, Nat's family described how important his Town work was to him. In six years next to him at the selectman's table, I closely observed that he was serious,

thoughtful, and took pride in our work. As we undertook some significant Town issues and completed routine tasks, Nat's dedication never wavered. But the serious nature of the work did not mean we had to be dour; he had a knack for bringing lightness at the right time and making drudgery interesting with some silliness, like with his red "no" button which, I hope, will remain in Town Hall as a memorial to him. The "no" was completely ironic. Nat listened carefully to perspectives, asked considerate questions, and was receptive to my elbows or Tara's kicks under the table when we thought the conversation was off track.

As a friend, he encouraged me and took interest in my life and family, and shared stories of his family's many adventures. In my mind, I can still hear how he'd say my name when greeting me with his smile and a hug — a consistent and unfailingly warm welcome.

There was much to admire about Nat, but what I most admired was his marriage with Louise. After decades they remained absolutely devoted to each other, but what was most unique was the way they were enamored... as though newlyweds.

We have been blessed and fortunate to have had Nat with us in New Marlborough. I will miss him and do my best to model his love, care, and wonderful nature.

□



*Nat flanked by his fellow Select Board members Tara White and Michele McAuley in 2014*

*photo by Larry Burke*



*State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli with Burrirt Day honoree Nat Yohalem in 2022*

*photo by Larry Burke*

## ELIZABETH DEAN

### *Carrying on a Tradition of Service*

By Barry R. Shapiro

**P**onder this for a moment: Why would a 36-year-old woman with a house full of three spirited young boys, ages 3, 5, and 7, decide to take on the additional burden of becoming the newest member of the Town's Select Board, with all the hard work and long hours that entails?

For lifelong resident, Elizabeth "Beth" Dean, the answer is easy: "Like many of my ancestors, I feel responsible to be involved in town affairs," said Ms. Dean. "I'm rooted in the community and my family has been here since 1744!"

"My grandfather, John B. Ormsbee, who founded three successful businesses in New Marlborough, was on the Select Board for thirty-four consecutive years until retiring in 1996. He was chair for twenty-seven years. His father, Edmund Ormsbee, was a dairy farmer and served the town for thirty years as tax collector, School Committee member, and assessor. John's grandfather, Andrew Freeman, was a selectman here in the 1880s. My dad, Robert Miller, was on the Finance Committee, my Uncle, Daniel was on the Board of Health and my Uncle, John E. Ormsbee served on the Select Board as well. As you can see, having the privilege of serving this town is deeply rooted in my family's history!"

The original Freeman/Ormsbee homestead on Mill River Great Barrington Road is still standing. This imposing home, now known as the Freeman Elms Farm B & B, was built by John Ormsbee's forebears in 1797 and there's been an Ormsbee descendant in town ever since. (Anita Ormsbee Cook, Ms. Dean's aunt, is the current proprietor.)

Ms. Dean herself grew up and was educated here, attending New Marlborough Central — the fourth generation of her family to attend the school — graduated from Mount Everett High School and then went off to Gordon College in Wenham, north of Boston. After receiving her social work degree, she returned home and worked in a variety of jobs, including at the now-defunct Hillside Restaurant in Hartsville, the Uncommon Grounds coffee shop in Great Barrington, and at



*Beth Dean and family at the Memorial Day Parade*  
photo by Barry R. Shapiro

Kripalu in Lenox until she had her first child, then devoting her time to motherhood.

She and her husband, Jordan, who is employed at Domaney's in Great Barrington, bought the home on Sisson Hill in which Ms. Dean grew up and live there now with their sons, Oliver, Asher, and Jack, and two cats, Oscar and Liza.

After about six weeks in her newly-elected position of Selectman, Ms. Dean remains enthusiastic: "I am intrigued by town politics. I'm learning and absorbing as much as I can. People in Town Hall have been very helpful, and I'm learning to be patient about how things get done. I really want to be effective and do the best for our community so that everyone, whether here forever or just moved here,

has the same opportunity and quality of life, and can work cooperatively to keep New Marlborough the great place it is. I am also fortunate to be able to use technology to attend committee and other meetings virtually."

Asked how she feels about attending the somewhat long and occasionally grueling Select Board meetings, Ms. Dean smiles and laughs.

"Remember, I have three boys at home. These meetings seem like a vacation!" □



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## NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST

Family and friends of Owen Wright gathered together at the Goodnow Preserve to begin, in his honor, construction of a small bridge over a seasonal stream. With our trail steward, Stefan Zdziarski,

taking the lead, a group of folks hauled lumber to the site and began construction the following day. His sister Jennie Wright wrote (NM5VN March, 2022) "Owen's skills as a hunter, fisherman, and woodsman were unmatched, and he saw himself as a steward of the land, generously sharing his knowledge and respect for nature with others." The bridge was completed in the next few weekends and is there for all to enjoy and remember Owen. This project, as with many of our projects, is possible through the generous support of our neighbors and friends to the New Marlborough Land Trust. Please visit [www.nmlandtrust.org/support-our-mission](http://www.nmlandtrust.org/support-our-mission) if you wish to support our mission. □

*Silvia Eggenberger, Executive Director*



photos by Silvia Eggenberger

At the construction site are some of the volunteers, led by Stefan Zdziarski, on the right, surveying the work so far.



Hauling lumber for the bridge at the Goodnow Preserve are Lisa Marcel on the left and Jennifer Wright.



Standing on the completed bridge, left to right, tools in hand, are Michael Lipson, Gardiner Morse, and Stefan Zdziarski.



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## A VISIT FROM ROBERT AZZI

### Questions about Islam Answered

Nothing is off the table except disrespect," Robert Azzi began. No further instructions, just an open forum to explore the kinds of questions you might otherwise hesitate to ask. The forum, "Ask A Muslim Anything," sponsored by New Marlborough Friends of the Library and the Southfield Church and organized by Deb O'Brien, drew a crowd of forty to the Southfield Church on May 20. Deb heard about this program from librarians in the central part of the state that hosted Mr. Azzi with great success. She then approached Robert Olsen to ask if the Southfield Church would be interested in partnering with the library. Robert approached the congregation with the idea and the reply was an enthusiastic YES!!

Mr. Azzi began his remarks in a humorous way, by telling the audience he had thought he was going to be speaking, not in New Marlborough, but in Marlborough, fairly close to his home in Exeter, New Hampshire. Little did he realize he would have a nearly four-hour drive to get here! He then shared a bit about his life story, what led him to convert to Islam, and what led him to start giving these talks about Islam. His father, who immigrated from Lebanon, met his mother here. Mr. Azzi was raised in a Christian environment, first Protestant and later Catholic. Fresh out of college he worked for Eugene McCarthy's presidential campaign, and, after McCarthy lost, he decided to travel to Lebanon and learn more about his roots. During his time in the Middle East, he became a successful photojournalist and a member of the esteemed Magnum Photo group. At one point he came to know a Saudi Arabian family whose ethics and life views impressed him so much that he began studying Islam and eventually converted to that religion.

He returned to the U.S. and studied architecture. During his tenure as a teacher at Phillips Exeter in New Hampshire, he was asked to give a talk about Islam. "I prepared what I thought was an excellent speech about the history of Islam, etc., but when it was time for audience questions, all people wanted to know about were prayer rituals and dietary restrictions — the nitty gritty of what made my religion different from their religions." That's when he decided to take his show on the road as "Ask a Muslim Anything."

Before turning to the audience for questions, he



*Before an attentive audience of more than forty townspeople at the Southfield Church, Robert Azzi's easy-going manner of speaking was both informative and captivating.*

*Photos by Larry Burke*

related one bit of American history to the audience: "Muslims have been in the U.S. since 1619," he pointed out, explaining that 10 percent of the slaves brought to America from Africa were Muslims. There are currently 1.6 million Muslims in our country.

Here is a sampling of the questions that were raised, along with his responses:

#### **What's the difference between Protestantism, Catholicism, Judaism, and Islam?**

"The Jews think that God is law, Christians that God is love, and Muslims that God is a way of life. There is a lot of overlap among all these religions. Combine all of these elements and you have humanity."

#### **Why do women have to cover themselves in Islam?**

"It is a patriarchal and misogynistic act to have women cover themselves. They didn't do so originally, and the Quran doesn't require it. In Arabic, hijab means head cover, but covering the head is not obligatory. It can be seen as a screen for privacy. If a woman wants to express her faith by wearing a head cover, she should be allowed the choice, but there is no religious source for it. I will not go to a mosque where I can't pray beside my daughter."

#### **What about Sharia law?**

"The Quran is a declaration of independence. It speaks to respect and dignity and how we treat our fellow human beings. Sharia is aspirational. In the Quran, there are only four or five crimes for which a penalty is prescribed. A true Muslim wouldn't say that Sharia commands someone to burn down your house. People who are radicalized to the point of violence are

no more a part of Islam than the KKK was a part of Christianity.”

**What are the five pillars of Islam?**

- “There is no god but God (Allah), and Muhammad is His Messenger.
- Pray in the direction of Mecca five times a day.
- Fast during the month of Ramadan.
- Tithing (Zakat) to the mosque or to an entity that serves mosques.
- Make a pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca at least once in your lifetime, if you are able.”

**What is prayer for a Muslim?**

“I like to think of my own practice as a combination of yoga and meditation in the service of God. There are no interlocutors in Islam, just me and God.”

**What does the term “Islamic banking” refer to?**

“The Quran calls out lenders who do not practice fair banking. The new banking is about sharing equity. Islam recognizes the need to borrow money but aims to share the risk between the bank and the borrower.”

**What about dietary restrictions?**

“Halal food is permitted food. It must be slaughtered

ethically. No pork or meat of animals that consume other animals. No alcohol.”

**Why don't Muslims believe in educating girls?**

“There is no Islamic tradition that supports that. The Quran supports education and doesn't distinguish between men and women.”

Ellen Sweet, who attended the talk, reflected that, “By speaking personally and frankly, Robert Azzi is able to break down people's preconceptions about who Muslims are and their stereotypes about Islam, especially if they've never had a chance to know a Muslim. He's such an authentic, approachable human being.”

In his thank-you email to Deb O'Brien for hosting him, Mr. Azzi noted, “I had a wonderful time. In retrospect I am sorry I didn't record it because on the way home, as I processed the afternoon, I realized that your guests asked some insightful and thoughtful questions phrased in ways I had not heard before. I am thankful and want to thank everyone who was involved in putting the program together... What a wonderful day.”

□  
Staff



Photos by Larry Burke

*The Season's First Art Show: The New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery kicked off its 2023 season with the opening of the show entitled “Coming Together.” The gallery is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*



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## SARAH REYNOLDS NORTH

### *Growing a Small Community Business the Organic Way*

By Robbi Hartt

“I think my starter is already in twenty-five kitchens in the area,” says Sarah Reynolds North. “To me that feels like a really organic place to start putting down roots here and connecting with the community.” Sarah, who grew up in Vermont and has lived many different places over the past two decades, is “finally back” in the hills and landscape that have spoken to her all her life.

Sarah has been building Found Bread, a bakery and a baking school, over the last several years through farmers markets, bread clubs, bakeries, and restaurants — expanding her community wherever she goes. But she didn’t start with bread. Her past career was in public radio. “I’ve always loved storytelling and have found it an incredibly valuable way of connecting communities” she says. Her passion for baking and past experience sharing stories are both at the heart of her breadmaking business.

“When I was a kid, I used to bake yeast bread and cakes with my mom,” she recalls, “and it always felt joyful to bake. That’s what stuck with me.” Moving to Guatemala after college, she lived in the rural north highlands to work with a local agriculture cooperative and the Peace Corps, and discovered the strong link between cooking and storytelling. “In Guatemala, women would gather around an oven to bake, a community *molina* to grind corn for tortillas, a laundry sink to wash, always sharing their stories while



*Sarah Reynolds North guides her breadmaking students in the fine art of kneading and shaping the dough.*

*Photo by Kenzie Fields*

they worked,” she explains — “stories about their wishes and hopes, their hardships, about raising animals, putting food on the table, and caring for their children and each other. These gatherings were how they made space for themselves, how they figured things out, how they organized and connected.”

Those stories and experiences led to a job with the Southern Poverty Law Center on her return, working on the newly developed Immigrant Justice Project. “I traveled all over the South, talking to migrant workers in hotels and labor camps about their rights, listening to their stories of home, of this new hard and unexpected life

they’d come to know in the states, about their journey here.” After a few years, she moved to Maine to attend the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies in an effort to shepherd more of those stories into the world.

Following a number of years working as a freelance reporter for NPR, WNYC, and WCAI (serving Cape Cod) and producing audio documentaries for nonprofit organizations, she started leaning more into bread baking, including attending the San Francisco Baking Institute (SBI). “I found baking, sourdough in particular, to be an incredibly meditative practice,” she says.

Upon her return to the Cape in 2013, she signed up for a table at the Falmouth Farmers Market, and Found Bread was born. “It was amazing watching people I didn’t know buy my bread and then seeing them come



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back every week,” Sarah says with a smile. In addition to the market, she set up the Found Bread Club, which worked like a CSA, with customers buying six weeks of bread upfront and then picking up their loaves each week at a local store. “There was no waste that way, and people could feel a part of this thing I was growing,” she says.

Soon she was baking 170 loaves a week in her home kitchen, which required mixing and baking nearly around the clock for three days. “As I gained more confidence in my baking, I knew sourdough was something I wanted to commit to. I liked the rhythm of it,” she states. “I was making a high hydration sourdough with fermented flour — better flavor, better for digestion, better all around!” In addition to her training at SBI, Sarah has worked at Brick House Bread in London and Elmore Mountain Bread in Vermont, as well as with Brassica Kitchen in Boston and Breadboard Bakery in Arlington, Massachusetts.

According to Karen Bates, who studies the relationship between traditional skills and resilience, the rising interest in bread baking witnessed during the pandemic revealed “a shared cultural value around cooking and baking” that was buried in our busy pre-Covid economic industrial society. In France, where people returned to old pantry favorites, many started baking their own bread. So, too, in Mill River the pandemic created a very warm environment for sourdough bread. Travis Brecher of Creature Bread began his career here at the beginning of the pandemic and now bakes more than 200 loaves a day, selling to restaurants and stores in the Berkshires, Connecticut, and Hudson Valley.

The sourdough-Covid connection arose for a variety of reasons, including isolation, need (bread, like toilet paper, being nearly impossible to buy for a while), and for some, the gift of time. “I think some people were able to take stock during Covid,” Sarah says.

“Fermenting is a slow, rhythmic process that requires patience, practice, and sharing — whether it’s your kombucha mother, your kiefer, or your sourdough starter. And, it gives back!”

Sarah has hosted several Sourdough 101 pop-up classes (\$150 for a two-and-a-half-hour workshop), providing hands-on instruction in the art of sourdough breadmaking and sending her students home with their own live dough and culture, detailed instructions, and knowledge and tools to bake their own.

Kenzie Fields (who attended the first pop-up in March and hosted the second soon after) notes, “It struck me while taking this class that it isn’t just about bread. Learning the techniques of making sourdough, demonstrated in person by Sarah, gave me a new way to think about time, nourishment, science, and individual expression in the kitchen. I have stuck with it and use my starter regularly for baking, but I really count the workshop as a life skill that has brought me joy beyond the kitchen.” Jan Johnson, owner of Mill River Farm had this to say: “I was delighted to take Sarah’s class. She’s both a knowledgeable baker and a gifted teacher. The hands-on experience was a very welcome change from learning on the internet.”

Upcoming sourdough classes with Sarah will be hosted by Bernie Plishtin on July 9th in New Marlborough and in the fall at the Jonathan Price Studio in Clayton. For details on these and other breadmaking offerings, email [sarah@foundbread.com](mailto:sarah@foundbread.com) or follow her @foundbread on Instagram. Summer offerings include two Makers Nights (6:00 - 7:30 p.m.), with a 30-minute demonstration, followed by a wine and cheese reception and time for questions and sharing. Sarah will lead the first one, Summer Focaccia, on June 28, and floral designer Blair Phillips will lead the second, Bouquets and Foraging, on July 12 (the cost for each is \$65). □

## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Here is a new column inspired by Jon Swan, who was one of the *New Marlborough 5 Village News* founding members, and who started every long distance phone conversation to family members with this question: “What are you reading?”

In honor of Jon, we’d like to reinstitute that question, and in that way to spread the word on individual books or whole genres that folks are reading here in



town. The first person we asked was Matt Vita, age 67, of Mill River Great Barrington Road, and his answer was *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin.

Matt’s description: “This beautifully written novel explores the meaning of friendship and love, loyalty and ambition, amid the backdrop of the video game industry. It will be enjoyed by gamers and non-gamers alike.” □

Kenzie Fields



# NEW MARLBOROUGH MEETING HOUSE

## 2023 SEASON



Aug  
12

**Karen Allen** The actor and director (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Animal House*, *The Perfect Storm*, *Starman*) will be interviewed about her life and career by Barry R. Shapiro.



Aug  
26

**Alison Larkin** Hailed by *The New York Times* as 'hugely entertaining,' the internationally acclaimed writer/comedian/audiobook narrator will entertain us hugely, before the London premier of her new solo show, "Grief ... a Comedy."



Sept  
2

**Simone Dinnerstein** The internationally renowned pianist returns by popular demand.



Sept  
9

**Melissa Clark and Madhur Jaffrey** "Tasting the World": *New York Times* cooking legend Melissa Clark, and cookbook author, writer, and actress Madhur Jaffrey share stories and recipes.



Sept  
23

### **Wincenc – Nikkanen – Asteriadou: Trio Calore**

Carol Wincenc, flute; Kurt Nikkanen (concertmaster, NYC Ballet Orchestra), violin; and Maria Asteriadou, piano, in an afternoon of stirring chamber music.



Oct  
7

**Simon Winchester** "A Writer and a Robot Walk Into a Bar..." Acclaimed author Simon Winchester returns to New Marlborough to lead a discussion about the art of writing in the age of artificial intelligence with three distinguished figures in the literary world: Chandra Prasad, who just finished a novel about AI, Francine Prose, the author of twenty novels, and André Bernard, former publisher and Vice President of Harcourt Trade Publications.

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June 23 thru July 23 **Coming Together** Reception June 23

July 28 thru Aug 27 **Motion / Emotion** Reception July 28

Sept 1 thru Oct 8 **The Annual New Marlborough Artists Show**  
Reception September 1



Shawn Fields

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS IN NEW MARLBOROUGH

From January 1, 2023, to the second week of June, ten New Marlborough properties have changed hands. Here are the particulars.

- January 10: 1605 Clayton Mill River Road, Petrucci to Hamill for \$360,000
- March 10: 109 Underwood Road, Rosen to Casteleiro for \$599,900
- March 30: 65 Adsit Crosby Road, Quigley to Gilliland/Steinert for \$1,400,000
- May 1: 1553 Hartsville New Marlborough Road, Hartt to Mullany for \$465,000
- May 9: 414 Brewer Branch Road, Jadow to Gellen/Carpenter for \$3,100,000
- May 23: 707 Stratford Road, The Beachwood Place LLC to Cluckys Place LLC for \$4,990,000
- May 26: 576 Hartsville New Marlborough Road,; Obedin to Warmflash/Biblowitz for \$484,150
- May 30: 26 Cross to Canaan Valley Road, Berkshire Rental Properties LLC to Barlow for \$775,000
- June 6: 82 New Marlboro Southfield Road, McCreato HLP Realty Holdings LLC for \$280,000
- June 9: 164 Peter Menaker Road, Lafer/Rose to Andrade for \$3,667,400

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## NEIGHBORS



**Kristen Sparhawk** graduated from Bard College at Simon's Rock in 1998 with a degree in theater, accompanied by a strong interest in the sciences. She married Ryan Marchione and spent some years homeschooling their three young children. With her love of theater and science, and her experience researching best practices in education, she was a natural addition to the Flying Cloud Institute where she taught and became director of its SMArt (Science Meets Art) program for almost twelve years. While there, she noted that participants in the Institute's Young Women in Science Program were going on to be practicing engineers. She decided to go back for a

second undergraduate degree in chemical engineering so that she could make a difference in slowing climate change. At the University of Massachusetts in Amherst she worked with amine functionalized zeolites for direct air carbon capture. After years of juggling her role as a mother and teacher, she was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering on May 21. She now will be working for Black and Veatch Global Engineering, a procurement, consulting, and construction company specializing in infrastructure development, where she will work with others to find solutions to today's climate challenges.

**Odegaard (Odie) Fields**, eighteen-year-old son of Kenzie and Shawn Fields of Mill River, is a first-year student at the Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, Maine, with the goal of earning his third mate unlimited Tonnage license and sailing the ocean as a merchant mariner, moving people and cargo all over the world.

Odie is currently on a two-month, transatlantic voyage aboard the Training Ship State of Maine. The itinerary for this mission was to sail along the United States' east coast as far as Philadelphia, and then to cross the Atlantic to the Azores; Vigo, Spain; Kiel, Germany; Belfast, Ireland; and back to Maine.

Odie is creating a well-written blog about his experiences on this trip, which can be found at [www.mainemaritime.edu/tssom-training-cruise-blog/category/2023-summer/](http://www.mainemaritime.edu/tssom-training-cruise-blog/category/2023-summer/)

We thank him for sharing this with us.

Compiled by Barbara Lowman: [deeuell@yahoo.com](mailto:deeuell@yahoo.com)



photo by Ryan Marchione

Kristen Sparhawk



photo by Kenzie Fields

On the day of his departure, Odie and Agnes, the family's dog, posed in front of Training Ship State of Maine.

## OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

June was an excellent month for encounters with a wide variety of New Marlborough denizens. On June 8, **Barry Shapiro** reported, "So, I'm looking out the bedroom window about 1:00 p.m. on a weekday and suddenly see what appeared to be a large, almost tawny-colored shape moving in the field below the house. Turned out to be two very large **coyotes**, enjoying the early afternoon sun, with one of them enjoying a rollover scratch of its back." By the looks of it, these coyotes are in the midst of shedding season!

**Scottie Mills**, on the 13th, posted a photo of a recent acquaintance, saying, "People have very different opinions about **chipmunks**. I think nobody can deny that they are very cute! I have several that will eat out of my hand. Farmers and people with bird feeders are exasperated by chipmunks' ability to make off with large



photos by Barry R. Shapiro

A pair of shaggy coyotes hanging out in the Shapiros' backyard

quantities of grain in their cheeks. So, while I am sitting on my front porch steps making friends, others are going to great lengths to eradicate the little guys. I even know someone who keeps a collection of chipmunk ears as trophies from the vanquished... gulp!"

photo by Scottie Mills



A charming chipmunk

Jane and Larry Burke's backyard was well populated with visitors – a porcupine munching on succulent elm tree branches, a tiger swallowtail butterfly sampling the nectar of a French lilac, a snapping turtle mom in search of just the right place to lay her eggs, which turned out to be the flower garden bed, and a handsome young white-tailed buck, showing off his budding, velveteen antlers.



A foraging porcupine

photo by Diane Nerwin



A rosy maple moth

Diane Nerwin observed a moth with cotton candy coloration – a rosy maple moth, the smallest member of the silk moth family. Diane writes, "This unusually colored moth has shown up a few times around the house in the last week or so. I read that they sleep all day and mate at night, so they seem to stay in one spot for long periods of time. Adult moths don't eat." These moths are harmless, but, in the caterpillar stage, they can cause a skin reaction, so if you happen upon a green caterpillar with a red head and a splash of red on the tail, let it be!



A snapper seeking, and finally finding, a nesting place

photos by Larry Burke



photo by Diane Barth



Virginia rail

Maybe not quite in New Marlborough, but just barely over the line in Sandisfield, Diane Barth, who is, after all, a native of our fair town, was able to catch a rare sighting through her viewfinder – a Virginia rail in the wetlands by her home. She also caught a beautiful moment of a fledgling robin being fed by its mother. "Sitting at my computer with the door to the



A handsome young buck

deck open two rooms away, I heard a loud, unfamiliar bird voice on the deck. I peeked out the door to see a newly fledged robin on the deck rail – probably the solitary nestling I'd noticed in the previous weeks, in a nest balanced on a beam underneath the deck. I grabbed my camera and the baby was happy to pose – and even mom robin didn't mind my presence when she arrived with a juicy worm."

Here's hoping, dear readers, that you will be sending in pictures and stories of the wildlife you come across in July. □



Feeding time

photo by Diane Barth

Compiled by Larry Burke;  
send your wildlife sightings to him at [larryjburke@gmail.com](mailto:larryjburke@gmail.com)

## THE SCHOOL REPORT

# THE CLASS OF 2023



Grant Chase



Carol Haiss



Kelsey Eichstedt



Jordyn Stockwell



Nick Lupiani



Michael Fass

Graduation at Mount Everett High School is always a spirited event for its small, tightknit student body. The day before the graduation the forty-eight seniors enjoyed the traditional parade through Undermountain Elementary School where the young children applauded them. June 3 turned out to be cool, but did not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd assembled in the Shed at Tanglewood to see the graduates receive their diplomas.

The procession looked a bit different this year, as the School Committee members, teachers, and administrators also wore robes and displayed the colors of their alma maters. At an earlier awards ceremony held outdoors at the Sheffield campus, families celebrated the individual accomplishments of the students. It should be noted that, although the six grad-



*The 2023 Mount Everett graduates march through the hallways of Undermountain School, setting an example for all the youngsters.*

*Photos by Kari Giordano*

uates from New Marlborough represent only 13 percent of the graduates, they received 30 percent of the President's Awards for Educational Excellence, and many were among the thirty-eight students to earn college credits from Bard College at Simons' Rock, the District's partner in the new Mount Everett Early College High School.

This year, the group of six graduates from New Marlborough includes Valedictorian Kelsey Eichstedt. (Supporters of New Marlborough Central School like to brag about the high number of valedictorians who attended this small school!) Kelsey resides in Mill River. She received the Superintendent's Award, the Mathematics Department Award, and the River President's Award for Educational Excellence. At Berkshire Community College she plans to pursue her

interest in nursing but is open to developing new interests while at college.

Grant Chase, also of Mill River, received President's Award for Educational Achievement. He has chosen to explore the growth possibilities offered by the United States Marine Corps. Michael Fass, of Southfield, another recipient of the President's Award for Educational Excellence, also won the top student award given by the Technology Department. He plans a career in technology and hopes his experience at Berkshire Community College will help him choose whether to pursue information technology or computer science. Caroline Haiss, of Mill River, was the town's third winner of a President's Award for Educational Excellence. She was also chosen to receive the Art Department award for outstanding achievements. She will attend Endicott College in

the fall, where she will explore her interest in the hospitality industry. Nicholas Lupiani of Mill River has decided to go directly into a career, with the aspiration of eventually starting his own company. Finally, Jordyn Stockwell, of Southfield, received the President's Award for Educational Achievement. She will attend the University of New England. She has expressed an interest in dental hygiene.

The students in the class of 2023 will be remembered as the pioneers who helped make the first year of the Mount Everett Early College High a success and for their resilience in the face of the Covid epidemic. At the graduation ceremony, they heard clearly from teachers, administrators, and attendees that everyone wishes them well and will remain available to them into the future. □

Jane Burke

## OUR KINDERGARTENERS CELEBRATE BEAVERS!

An enthusiastic group of parents, friends, and school staff gathered in the New Marlborough Library for an exciting Beaver Celebration on June 12. Through a grant from the New Marlborough Cultural Council, the students of Lynn Webster's kindergarten class were able to spend five months becoming beaver experts. The event began with the showing of a short film they made, using their own drawings to explain the life of beavers and the important role they play in nature. Then visitors were invited to stroll around to see the displays on every available space in the children's section of the library.

The kids were excited to show their guests the furry baby beavers each of them had received and had cared for every day at school. There were photos of their field trips with wildlife expert and New Marlborough Land Trust member Tes Reed to see beaver habitat in both Beartown State Forest in Monterey and along the Konkapot in New Marlborough.

There were illustrated books about beavers, authored by the children, about which Ms. Webster commented, "These books show



how their excitement about beavers motivated them to do research, write, and illustrate their own books. In class they were eager to read each other's books." Clearly the children were pleased to show all of their work to the guests. Head Librarian Deb O'Brien was delighted that the kindergarteners had chosen the library space for this festive occasion. In true New Marlborough Central School style, a delicious array of food topped off the event. The bakers outdid themselves with beaver shaped cookies and cupcakes resembling beaver lodges. There were even beaver-shaped pizza pieces! All in all, it was a wonderful, spirited conclusion to an outstanding year for our young scholars. □



*Beavers ruled at the New Marlborough Library - even showing up in cookie form!*

Photos by Jane Burke

## FOUND FOOD: THE ART OF FORAGING

By Kenzie Fields

Foraging, the act of collecting wild food for free, has become more popular in the last few years as a natural extension of the farm-to-table movement, and from a growing desire to understand where our food comes from, not to mention a peaking interest in local everything. It is likely that many New Marlborough residents are already regularly enjoying wild edibles, from nettles and ramps to morels and wild berries. Relative to the population size of our town, we have an abundance of experts on the subject. In this kickoff to a series of articles, we will forage together; a person in town will highlight a seasonal wild edible and act as our guide. Whether your goal is to expand your palette, impress your urban friends, or spend more time outdoors with good information, you are guaranteed to find something valuable along the way to savor, and what you find may not be what you set out to collect.

Before we get to Erhard Wendt and the black trumpet mushroom, our person and edible of choice respectively, here is some basic terminology: Fungi is a taxonomic kingdom that boasts more than 144,000 known species and includes mold, yeasts, rusts, and mushrooms. Mushrooms are a fruiting body including a stem and cap. Mycelium is the underground network of the mushroom.

As the former owner and chef of the Williamsville



Black trumpet mushrooms in a collector's bag, and, below, as they appear before harvest

photo by Kenzie Fields



Inn in West Stockbridge, Erhard foraged and cooked and also led mushroom foraging as a recreational program for guests. Now a Mill River resident and private chef, his foraging happens in solitude and his cooking for a select few. On finding Erhard in his garden with a large sack full of black trumpet mushrooms, and knowing enough mushroom etiquette not to ask where they they came from, I learned of Erhard's experience with and affection for mushrooms in general. I also received a learned introduction to the black mushroom, also known, paradoxically, as both "The Horn of Death" and "The Horn of Plenty."

Black trumpet mushrooms are difficult to find because of summer flora on the forest floor, but they do tend to grow in clumps; so if you find them, you are likely to have hit a whole patch. They can be found between June and October in our region. They are gray and pitch black, have a fluted shape, and feel a little like suede. While hard to spot, they are easy to identify, with no real doppelgangers of the poisonous variety. Erhard described the smell of a black trumpet in a way the guidebooks do not: "The smell is a little of rancid butter, but not the taste." The closest written approximation to his description was from an online purveyor of dried mushrooms, Far West Fungi: "Black trumpets are sometimes called 'poor


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man's truffles' because the flavor is earthy and rich. The mushroom is packed with a flavor that you have to taste to truly understand. Nearly wine-like in complexity, it combines notes of chocolate, fruit, butter, and cheese."

Erhard prefers to sauté the mushrooms in butter, with a little shallot, salt and pepper. He has at times blended black trumpets into sauces, which he speaks of fondly because of the striking silvery charcoal color they add on a plate.

Mushroom hunting requires a different frequency, where careful attention is paid to time, temperature, humidity, season, and the life cycle of plants and trees – and these aspects are just the surface of what is required to be a successful fungi forager. Assuming the plan is to cook and eat what you find, mushrooms have an intimidating reputation due to the potentially steep learning curve. A good way to start is with a reputable



Erhard Wendt, after a successful foraging expedition for black trumpet mushrooms  
photo by Kenzie Fields

guide book, a heightened sense of curiosity, and an openness to the power of observation. Tapping into the knowledge of experienced neighbors is key when identifying anything edible.

The allure is palpable as it is with so many outdoor activities rooted in a combination of patience, practice, and luck. Taking long walks in the damp forest should, however, fall under your definition of fun, whether it means coming out empty handed or with sixty pounds of chanterelles, as Erhard did one day recently.

Under the apparent constant demand for productivity, we can choose to shut out the attention economy and focus on the world around us. We must be deliberate, and if one way to claim our independent thinking time is to search for an elusive culinary delicacy growing naturally in a pristine environment, let mushrooms lead. □

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# THE LOG

## Police Department (selected entries)

- May 1 11:32 a.m. A Massachusetts wildlife biologist is contacted after a Norfolk Road resident reports that a bear has torn off siding and breached the exterior wall of a summer house to get at garbage within.
- 11:45 a.m. A driver reports that he had struck a deer on Lumbert Cross Road the previous evening.
- 3:10 p.m. A Mill River resident reports a verbal altercation with a neighbor.
- May 2 8:00 a.m. A Hartsville resident complains of a driver pulling into his driveway, then taking pictures of his property.
- May 3 7:49 a.m. Following a report from a Mill River resident that a neighbor was apparently suffering a mental breakdown, the Department calls in a mental health professional for a well-being check.
- May 5 4:20 p.m. An officer assisted a physician with Community Health Program in contacting a Southfield patient in need of a blood transfusion.
- 4:48 P.M. An officer advises a Clayton resident that, with the burning season expired, he needs to extinguish a fire.
- May 7 12:44 p.m. A Clayton resident is advised to extinguish a burn.
- 1:30 p.m. A Mill River resident is advised to extinguish a burn.
- 2:28 p.m. The Department assists in obtaining a tow following a motor vehicle accident on Canaan Southfield Road
- May 8 8:05 a.m. Following his complaint that his former wife may have intruded on his property in his absence, a Mill River resident is advised to install security cameras.
- 11:54 a.m. A Hartsville resident reports a possible break-in to his barn at 3:00 a.m. that morning.
- May 10 11:05 p.m. An officer reports finding eight tires dumped near the Konkapot River where it is crossed by Hartsville Mill River Road.
- 11:45 p.m. Following a call from a motorist, an officer assists in moving a group of baby foxes to safety off Mill River Southfield Road.
- May 12 1:47 p.m. Spectrum is notified of wires down on Canaan Southfield Road in Clayton.
- 11:14 p.m. A Southfield resident receives a summons after he left the scene of an accident, caused when the car he was driving sped through an intersection in Sheffield and rolled over.
- May 15 4:29 p.m. Following an alert from a visitor, an officer discovers graffiti at Umpachene Falls Park.
- May 17 6:42 a.m. The highway superintendent is alerted to a downed tree blocking the intersection of Hadsell Street and Canaan Southfield Road.
- 9:21 a.m. Motor vehicles collide at Clayton Four Corners.
- 9:27 p.m. A citation is issued to a driver who, following a stop on Mill River Great Barrington Road, refuses to show an ID on the grounds that he is a "sovereign citizen."
- May 22 3:10 p.m. The animal control officer helps a Hartsville resident in freeing a pigeon from his garage.
- May 23 3:01 p.m. A resident complains of vehicles speeding through Southfield village following the reopening of the Norfolk Road Bridge.
- May 24 8:20 a.m. The animal control officer assists in returning two cows loose on Mill River Southfield Road to their pasture.
- 9:54 a.m. A caller reports a break-in at her New Marlborough village home.
- 11:50 a.m. An officer helps in obtaining health-care assistance for a Mill River resident who is exhibiting aberrant behavior.
- May 26 9:53 a.m. A driver reports having lost an iPad



he absentmindedly left on the hood of his pick-up truck as he departed from Leffingwell Road.

Hospital; the dog is later quarantined.

5:10 p.m. An officer jump starts a vehicle with a dead battery in Southfield village.

May 30 2:40 p.m. A driver is taken to Fairview Hospital after her car collided with the back of a trailer on Hotchkiss Road and flipped over.

May 27 7:05 p.m. The Department is alerted to an off-road bike being driven on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.

During the month of May, the animal control officer assisted in returning five dogs to their owners and responded to two complaints about dangerous dogs.

8:38 p.m. A caller, reporting he had been bitten by a dog at a Southfield residence, is advised to go the ER at Fairview

*Graham Frank, Chief of Police*

## FIRE AND RESCUE

May 1	4:45 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	May 20	1:50 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call
May 1	8:56 p.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call	May 22	9:09 a.m.	Red Fox Lane Medical Call
May 3	11:53 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call	May 28	1:29 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
May 5	8:22 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call	May 28	7:22 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
May 7	2:05 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road MVA	May 28	7:32 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
May 16	5:44 p.m.	Red Fox Lane Medical Call	May 30	2:41 p.m.	Hotchkiss Road MVA
May 19	9:30 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call			<i>Fire Company President David Smith</i>

**RABIES CLINIC:** Members of the New Marlborough Volunteer Fire Company, in partnership with Bilmar Veterinary Services in Great Barrington, will hold a Rabies Clinic from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 15, at the New Marlborough Fire Station on Norfolk Road in Southfield. In addition to veterinarians and clinicians from Bilmar, Town Clerk Kathy Chretien will be on hand to issue dog licenses for pet owners who still need to acquire them.

Massachusetts law requires all dogs and cats to be vaccinated against rabies. We ask that all dogs be on a leash and that all cats be in a carrier. If possible, please bring proof of previous rabies vaccination, which will allow us to extend the vaccination length from one to three years.

The cost at the clinic is \$10 per vaccination, with proceeds going to support the Thomas Crawford New Marlborough Emergency Services Scholarship. For more information, please contact David Smith, President, New Marlborough Fire Co., at (413) 229-0291, or Windyann Merrill, Office Manager, Bilmar Veterinary, 413-528-1180.

**THE ANNUAL PIG ROAST:** The New Marlborough Fire Company's Annual Pig Roast and Block Dance will be held on Saturday, August 19, at the Firehouse in Southfield. Dinner is served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., followed by dancing and the drawing for the Company's annual Grand Raffle. Tickets are \$20 each and available at [www.nmfirecompany.org](http://www.nmfirecompany.org) or from any Fire Company member. Call 413-229-0291 for more information. □

*Fire Company President David Smith*



On Friday, May 26, to mark EMS Week, members of New Marlborough Fire & Rescue brought the ambulance to New Marlborough Central School. EMT Maureen Krejci described the day: "We spent a half hour with each class. First, we had a little talk about who we are and what to do in the event of an emergency. Then the children were welcome to walk through ambulance, sit in the cot, explore and ask questions about the various pieces of equipment, and finally sent them back to class with a small gift from us."

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

In summer, I don't want to spend a lot of time in the kitchen, so an easy watermelon salad is a go-to for me. Sweet, cooling watermelon, creamy, salty feta cheese, cucumbers, mint, and basil come together quickly for a summertime salad that has become a classic. You don't even need the dressing. Just pour on lots of lime juice, although the dressing does add a bit of punch. Enjoy!

*Marjorie Shapiro*



photo by Barry Shapiro



### Watermelon Salad with Feta, Cucumber, and Honey Lime Dressing

Serves 8; Preparation time 15 minutes

#### Honey Lime Dressing

- 2 tbsp honey
- 3 tbsp lime juice
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- Pinch of salt


#### Watermelon Salad

- ½ watermelon cut into cubes
- 2 cups of cucumbers cut into 1" cubes
- 10 fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 10 fresh basil leaves, chopped
- ½ cup crumbled feta cheese

#### Directions

- Honey Lime Dressing—Whisk together the honey, lime juice, olive oil and pinch of salt
  - Salad—in a large bowl combine the watermelon, cucumbers, and mint and basil. Top the watermelon salad with the dressing and toss to combine. Top with the feta cheese.
- Note - Shallots, red onion, and avocado cubes can also be added, but I like to keep it simple and usually leave these out.

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# MEMORIAL DAY 2023



*The traditions that make the Memorial Day Parade so special in the hearts of New Marlborough's citizens were once again on full display this past May 29. The Mount Everett marching band performed wonderfully, the speeches were right on point, the memory of those who lost their lives in service to our nation was sincerely observed, and those veterans of the Armed Forces who attended were also honored. And, to top it off, the weather was perfect.*



photos by Diane Barth



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*Near Miss*, by Stuart Woods

### Adult Nonfiction

*The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder*, by Gavid Grann  
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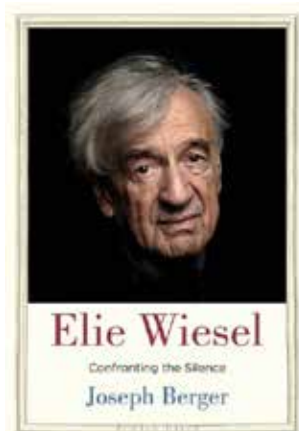
*Salat in Secret*, by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow  
*Bitsy Bat, School Star*, by Kaz Windness  
*How to Count to 1 (And Don't Even THINK About Bigger Numbers!)*, by Casper Salmon  
*We Are Going To Be Pals!* by Mark Teague

### Children's Nonfiction

*The Wild Wonders of Bioluminescence*, by Jennifer N.R. Smith



hello



### Meet the Author: Joseph Berger

#### Book Talk and Signing

Saturday, July 22 at 1:00 p.m.

at the Southfield Church

234 Norfolk Road in Soutfield

*Elie Wiesel: Confronting the Silence*, by Joseph Berger

The first full-scale biography of the remarkable writer, teacher and Nobel Prize-winning spokesman for victims of the Holocaust and of genocides everywhere. As an orphaned survivor and witness to the horrors of Auschwitz, Elie Wiesel (1928–2016) compelled the world to confront the Holocaust with his searing memoir *Night*. How did this soft-spoken man from a small Carpathian town become such an influential figure on the world stage? Drawing on Wiesel's prodigious literary output and interviews with his family, friends, scholars, and critics, Joseph Berger seeks to answer this question.

Berger explores Wiesel's Hasidic childhood in Sighet, his postwar years spent rebuilding his life from the ashes in France, his transformation into a Parisian intellectual, his failed attempts at romance, his years scraping together a living in America as a journalist, his decision to marry and have a child, his emergence as a spokesperson for Holocaust survivors and persecuted peoples throughout the world, his lifelong devotion to the state of Israel, and his difficult final years. Through this penetrating portrait we come to know intimately the man the Norwegian Nobel Committee called "a messenger to mankind."

Books will be available for purchase. Joseph Berger was a *New York Times* reporter, columnist, and editor for over thirty years. He is the author of five books.

For more information, contact the library 413-229-6668/newmarlborough@gmail.com.

This program is sponsored by the New Marlborough Friends of the Library and the Southfield Church.

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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:** May - August, 2nd Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.  
 September - April, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays  
**Board of Health:** First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.  
**Conservation Commission:** Last Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.  
**Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
**Fire Department training:** Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station  
**Building Inspector:** By appointment only; call 413-229-0277  
**First Responders:** Meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station  
**Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m at the library  
**Post Office: Mill River** (413) 229-8582  
 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 and 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.  
**Animal Control Officer:** Graham Frank, (413) 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

## Transfer Station Hours:

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.  
 Saturday: 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

### PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1

and can be purchased for \$225  
 by mail or online at  
[www.newmarlborough.gov](http://www.newmarlborough.gov).  
 Please enclose a self-addressed,  
 stamped envelope. No admittance  
 without a permit after August 15

### Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical**  
**911**

### New Marlborough Highway Department

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

*We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents. Call Barbara Lowman: 229-2369*

### NM5VN Editorial Team

Larry Burke, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Martha Bryan,  
 Jane Burke, Kenzie Fields, Shawn Fields, Robbi Hartt,  
 Zoë Kogan, Barbara Lowman, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten,  
 Barry Shapiro, Marjorie Shapiro, Rachel Perera Weingeist.

### NM5VN Board of Directors

Roy Blount, Jr., Larry Burke, Barbara Lowman,  
 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](http://www.nm5vn.org)**

The next issue will be dated August 2023.  
 All copy must be submitted no later than July 17.  
 For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman,  
 tel: 229-2369 PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259  
**[5villagenews@gmail.com](mailto:5villagenews@gmail.com)**

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## Upcoming: *Events Calendar for July and August*

**July 2: Revolving Art Exhibit at the New Marlborough Library:** featuring the work of Mill River artist Shawn Fields, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Through the month of July

**July 15: Rabies Clinic:** Rabies shots administered and licenses issued at the Firehouse in Southfield, from 10:00 a.m. to noon

**July 18: Wellness Clinic,** a free check-up available from the Southern Berkshire Health Collaborative, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Town Hall

**July 28: Motion/Emotion,** the Meeting House Gallery's second art show, opening reception at 5:00 p.m., on view Fridays to Sundays, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until August 27

**August 12: Actor/Director Karen Allen,** sharing highlights of her career in an interview with Barry R. Shapiro, 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, \$25, \$20 for Meeting House members

**August 19: Elihu Burritt Day: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the New Marlborough Village Green,** followed by the Fire Department Annual Pig Roast, at the Firehouse in Southfield, 5:00 p.m. until the band goes home

**August 26: Allison Larkin** talks about her career as a comedian, her autobiography, and how she chose the Berkshires as her home, 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, \$25, \$20 for Meeting House members