



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

Giving Back:

Prue Spaulding's Mantra

By Sandra Walker

New Marlborough may be a small town compared to other municipalities in Massachusetts, but residents make a significant impact in our community and across the state as they follow their passions. Whether it's sustainable local farming, recording history with a camera, or a beloved teacher turned advocate, our town is rich in people who speak up, especially when going with the flow can be the much easier road to take in life.

The passion to follow your beliefs, an unyielding conviction that you are doing what's right, along with a sense of responsibility to listen and learn, are the ingredients of a good advocate. Prudence Spaulding, as the Town's director of Senior Services, not only coordinates activities for seniors in our town, but also advocates for seniors here and across the state.

Prue's latest efforts at the state level are focused on urging legislators to amend a property tax rebate for seniors that she has strongly supported in the past. This legislation allows seniors the opportunity to work for their towns and accrue a rebate on their property taxes, with a present cap of \$1,000 per year.

Prue's new initiative is directed at amending the legislation by changing the cap to a maximum number of hours worked per year, with the pay rate tied to the minimum wage. This change allows the rebate to reflect current economics and for rebates to rise along with the minimum wage, eliminating any need for amendments in the future because the policy would no longer be tied to a fixed dollar amount.



Photo by Sandra Walker

Prue Spaulding is a tireless advocate for senior citizens.

Everyone wins here. Town employees get extra help during busy times, town seniors share their expertise and energy, and the amended write-off would have only a minimal impact on revenues.

Not waiting for the state to move on the amendment, Prue approached the Town of New Marlborough individually and requested that it amend the policy. The policy change was approved, and now New Marlborough seniors benefit from the 125-hour maximum instead of a dollar limit.

Research on the status of the present statewide legislation (House No. 3780) found that the bill is at the very last stage before a final vote. With state legislators heading home at the end of July, Prue has begun calling on legislative committee members, writing letters, and urging others to contact their legislators, asking them to push this bill to a vote.

Gena Frank, of Representative William (Smitty) Pignatelli's office in Boston, carefully went through the language, recent revisions, and potential outcomes for this legislation. She explained that though the session was ending, there might still be opportunities for the bill to make it to a vote before the end of the year.

The squeaky wheel always gets greased and the same analogy applies to politics. Legislators work for

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Prudence Spaulding, continued

their constituents. They are “hired” through elections and paid by tax dollars. They won’t know what their constituents want them to do unless they are told; that’s the job of citizens in a democracy. Anthropologist and author Margaret Mead said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Prue is demonstrating the truth of that statement.

Prue’s mother at the end of her life advised Prue that when her time came, she should “look back and know that she had given back to the people who’d been good to her.” Prue says, “Surely the people in New Marlborough

have been more than good to me over the years, and so I am doing what my mother said to do.”

Gena Frank shared the fact that she was one of Prue’s first-grade students and stated how much she respected Prue’s advocacy efforts to help others. After her thirty-six years of teaching, surely there are many of Prue’s students scattered around the country who learned from their teacher that speaking up is not just a right, but also a responsibility. Prudence Spaulding continues to work at making the world a better place and is showing us that changing the world is something we can all do, at any age. □

GEOCACHING: FUN AND TECHNOLOGY MEET IN THE WOODS

By Barry R. Shapiro

We had just crossed the suspension bridge in Thousand Acre Swamp when I heard my eight-year-old grandson, Gabe, who had run on ahead, scream. “Gramps, I found it!”

I looked into the woods and saw Gabe, flashing his signature gap-tooth smile, standing next to a hollowed-out tree and holding up a black, cylindrical container. His eyes were gleaming. His five-year-old brother, Eli, was standing next to him, jumping up and down with excitement.

“I can’t believe we found it!”

And they had: A “geocache.”

What, you might ask, is a geocache?

Geocaching is a popular, fast-growing outdoor activity in which participants use a global positioning system (GPS) to hide-and-seek containers called geocaches. Geocaches can be found in over 200 countries around the world; in New Marlborough these include Thousand Acre Swamp and Umpachene Falls, among many others in town. (A long and diligent search at the falls brought us close to the geocache but we were, alas, unable to actually locate it; perhaps you’ll be more successful.) There are even geocaches rumored to be in Antarctica.

Geocaching is fun, free (you just need a GPS receiver, such as your smart phone), and a great way to marry your kids’, grandkids’ or even your own addiction to technology with a long day spent in the woods.

Geocaching has its roots in the 160-year-old game called “letterboxing” in which participants used clues and references to landmarks contained in stories to find a particular location. In 2000, improvements in

the accuracy of GPS allowed for a small container to be placed and located with great accuracy, and the first documented placement of a geocache took place in Oregon.

Originally called “geostashing,” the name was changed to “geocaching” since the word “stash” had negative connotations.

Here’s how it works.

A geocacher (this could be anyone, including you) places a waterproof container containing a log book with pen or pencil at some location and then posts the cache’s coordinates on a listing site such as geocaching.com. (This user-friendly app is free to download, although premium services require a small fee.) Other geocachers see the coordinates on the listing site and then try to find the cache using

their handheld GPS device. A 3G or GPS connection is required and, although most of New Marlborough does not have good cellular service, I’ve found that the GPS on my iPhone works almost everywhere.

Once geocachers locate the “cache” (it can be quite tricky when you get close, since the GPS is accurate only to within twenty or so feet and sometimes clues posted by other geocachers are needed), they can then record their find on the log book (the log book is often just a sheet of paper), and are free to take any trade



Gabe and his brother, Eli, explore the geocache they found after a long hike in the woods.

photo by Barry R. Shapiro

items contained in the cache in exchange for a trade item of equal or higher value ("trade items" include low cost, fun things like stickers, small toys, buttons, craft items, or coins).

Some trade items are intended to move from cache to cache, so geocachers can see where the item started and where it has moved. Some of these "travel bugs" or "geocoins" have specific goals, such as to be moved to, or at least, toward a particular destination, such as a state park or foreign country.

Geocaches vary by size, difficulty, terrain, and location. Some can be found in urban areas (including downtown Great Barrington near the Mason Library), some are quite small (only large enough to contain a log book, which can be rolled up and placed into a small container), and some can be quite large, often contained in a plastic storage container. Most common are thermos-size canisters, but lunch-box-size storage containers and even surplus military ammunition boxes are often seen.

Some geocaches can be quite sophisticated. For example, some caches only contain a clue to the next cache. Some are intended only to be found at night, using a series of reflectors. Some geocaches will cause your GPS device to "chirp" when you approach it.

Mystery or puzzle caches require the finder to solve a puzzle to locate the cache.

There are also variations on finding the static cache. For example, the sport of "geodashing" requires that the player find and visit randomly selected "dashpoints" around the world and report what they find, with the objective being to visit as many dashpoints as possible in the allotted time.

In this age of geopolitical uncertainty, the geocaching community has adopted rules of conduct to minimize the concern that citizens may have about containers seemingly abandoned in the woods or people snooping around urban, or even rural areas, studying their electronic devices. The general rule is to avoid causing disruptions or public alarm, to minimize the impact on nature, and to respect private property. Geocachers try to avoid this by not hiding caches in places where searching or the hidden cache may look suspicious, such as near schools, playgrounds, courthouses, or near bridges and tunnels.

Notwithstanding this, there have been numerous

incidents of geocachers being approached by police and investigations of geocache cylinders that were mistaken for pipe bombs. A number of caches have been destroyed by bomb squads, and even Disneyland was locked down when a cache was mistaken for an explosive device. Needless to say, dangerous or illegal items, such as weapons or drugs,

are prohibited by the rules of most on-line geocaching sites.

The popularity of geocaching is evidenced by gatherings such as Berkshire Geobash, which attracts a thousand participants from the United States and twelve foreign countries to their annual event at Bousquet, held this year on July 16. Geocachers at this event hunted for seventy-five new caches and engaged in other entertaining activities with other cache hunters.

So, download a geocaching app, round up the youngsters, select a nearby geocache, and start sleuthing. It's free, it's outdoors, and the shared joy of hunting for the geocache and then finding it transcends generations and guarantees lots to talk about on the way home. You'll be in good company. According to one source, there are 15 million geocachers and more than 2.8 million caches throughout the world.

One more thing: If you do manage to find that elusive Umpachene Falls geocache, perhaps you can send me a clue as to its location. I know that Gabe and Eli (and I) would appreciate it! □



Screen shot from geocaching.com showing the location of some of the geocaches in New Marlborough.

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Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 20: With all three selectman present the Board convened a special permit hearing for owner of the Buggy Whip Shop. Mr. J. Edward (Ned) Odegaard. Mr. Odegaard is seeking Board permission to build an eight-foot extension onto a non-conforming residential building behind the Buggy Whip known as the "pipe shed." Since Mr. Odegaard no longer resides in New Marlborough, he uses the pipe shed as a residence when he's in town, explained contractor Mike White, who was representing him at the hearing. Mr. White said the extension, which will be added onto the north side of the 24-by-24-foot structure, will house a laundry room and closet. There were a number of abutters present but when none of them voiced any objection to the plans, the Board voted to approve the special permit.

In an unrelated matter, Chairman Yohalem asked Mr. White, whose offices are located in the former American



Legion Hall on the New Marlborough Southfield Road near the village green, whether he'd be willing to allow parking on his property there during the annual Burritt Day celebration on Saturday, August 20. Mr. Yohalem explained that the Land Trust,

The Broadband Committee is maintaining contact with adjacent towns possibly joining a multi-town sub-regional network, meeting with broadband vendors, and visiting the town of Leverett, which has built its own broadband network.

which owns the field across the road, has informed the town that parking there this year will not be permitted because the land is being used for livestock grazing. Mr. White said he had no objection to the Town using the parking area outside his office, which he thought could accommodate from twenty-five to thirty cars, but that he

had reservations about allowing parking on the grass, particularly if it's wet.

After approving the minutes of the June 6 and June 13 meetings, the Board, at Mr. Yohalem's urging, voted to create the position of Board Vice Chairman specifically to run the Board meetings when the chairman is unable to attend or is conferencing in by phone. He said the term would be for one year, or until the next reorganization of the Board takes place, and he proposed that Selectman White, who is next in line in terms of seniority to be the chairman, be elected to fill it, which the Board so voted, with Ms. White recusing herself.

The Board then began its annual review and approval of Town officer appointments for the fiscal year beginning July 1. With just two exceptions all were reappointments, since the current office holders had all indicated their willingness to serve another term, according to Board Secretary Sharon Fleck. The two exceptions were Barbara Lowman, who was reappointed after a year's hiatus from the Cultural Council, and Trisha Killeen, a new appointee to the Council. In addition, the Board voted to appoint five townspeople to the new Broadband Committee, but rather than giving them fixed terms, the selectmen decided they would serve at the pleasure of the Board. They are Richard Long, Tom Stalker, Steven Klein, Owen Wright and Selectman Michele Shalaby. The Board put on hold the appointments of Tim Newman to the Technology Committee and Joyce Hackett as alternate WiredWest Delegate until it can determine, considering the creation of the Broadband Committee, what these roles would entail. And finally, the Board expressed its concern about vacancies on the Board of Appeals and the Umpachene

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Falls Park Commission and agreed an effort should be made to fill those positions as soon as possible.

Under Town Administrator updates, Mari Enoch said the Town received its first signed certificate of donation for a permanent utility easement in connection with the reconstruction of the Hadsell Street bridge from Matthew Myers and Fran Lartigue of Canaan Southfield Road. She said they've signed all the necessary paperwork and that National Grid can now anchor a guy wire for one of its poles on their property. She also mentioned that Marilyn Fracasso has accepted the position of Town treasurer and has already reported for work.

The Board reviewed a draft of a proposed letter to all 700 New Marlborough households informing them of the Special Town Meeting July 25 to approve reductions in the budget and the Hadsell Street road layout plans. The letter still needs to be reviewed by Town Counsel Jeremiah Pollard.

And finally, **Richard Long, chairman of the new Broadband Committee, reported on the committee's recent activities.** These included "keeping current with the activities of the four contiguous towns" that have expressed an interest in possibly joining New Marlborough in a multi-town sub-regional network. They are Sandisfield, Monterey, Tyringham, and Tolland. He said the committee has also been meeting with broadband vendors, and that a second meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, with Frontier Communications, which is currently building out broadband systems in nearby Connecticut towns. On July 5, the committee will be visiting the town of Leverett, one of the first towns in the western part of the state to build its own broadband network "to see if we might learn anything from their experience."

June 27: After approving the minutes from the June 20 meeting, the Board met with Courtney (Buck) Turner, the Town's veteran's agent, Berkshire County historian Jim Parrish, and Tom Adams and Tom Vincent, members of the Sons of the American Revolution **about erecting a Revolutionary War monument in town.** The original idea, first proposed to the Board back in July 2015 by an attorney for the Adams family, was to place a marker in town for Mr. Adams' relative, Sergeant Moses Adams, a New Marlborough resident who served and died in the Revolutionary War. But it was Mr. Turner's idea, proposed to the Board some months later, to broaden the concept and **memorialize all town residents who served in that war,** and that tonight's group, including Mr. Adams, was coming before the Board to seek its blessing for the broader concept. As Mr. Turner explained, the group has three tasks ahead of it: One is to identify the

names of all town residents who served in the War for Independence; two, to determine the size and shape of the monument including where it should be placed, which in Mr. Turner's view should be at the library with the other war memorials, and then three, to raise the funds to pay for the project. In response, Mr. Yohalem said, "I think the Board is behind you 100 percent and yes, I think the proper place for the monument would be at the library, beyond question. We wish you success."

The Board reviewed and approved a one-year contract extension for Town Administrator Enoch. It's essentially

the same contract she signed last year, but included a 2 percent cost of living increase, bringing her annual compensation to \$31,600.

On Highway Superintendent Loring's recommendation, the Board awarded a contract to pave the lower end of Canaan Southfield Road to Tri-Town Paving of Lee, with its low bid of \$134,562; there were three

other bidders. The Board also awarded a **chip-sealing contract** to All States Asphalt Inc. of Sunderland for its low bid of \$92,497; there was one other bidder. Roads scheduled for chip sealing this year include Hayes Hill, Sisson Hill, Adsit Crosby, and sections of the Hartsville Mill River Road.

The shared services meeting, with the towns of Sheffield and Great Barrington, explored the idea of regionalizing ambulance services, given the difficulty of rescue squads in finding ambulance drivers.

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Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch said the **road layout plan for the reconstruction of the Hadsell Street bridge** was not approved by the Planning Board apparently because of questions about an old milk house on one of the affected properties. She said the Planning Board will meet again in early July and attempt to resolve its concerns. It was agreed Selectman White would attend the meeting to answer questions and address any concerns the board may have. The layout plan must be approved by the Planning Board before it can be voted on at the Special Town meeting July 25. In a related matter, Ms. Enoch said that Gretchen Long of 1740 Farm on Hadsell Street has agreed to donate her temporary easement to the Town for the project. She's the second resident to do so. That just leaves Jane Tant of Hadsell Street and Dr. James Rippe of Canaan Southfield Road.

Ms. Enoch reported the Conservation Commission, which was scheduled to hold a public hearing June 25 regarding the replacement of culverts along the Clayton Mill River Road in connection with the resurfacing of that road, had to cancel its meeting for lack of a quorum. It was also going to review the proposed relocation of several utility poles by National Grid. The meeting has now been rescheduled, she said, for Saturday, July 9. As previously reported, the Town was the recipient of a \$1 million MassWorks grant for the Clayton Mill River Road project, and as Mr. Yohalem reminded the Board, the funding is dependent on the Town meeting state deadlines for the various phases of the project.

Earlier, Ms. Enoch reported that Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard indicated the warrant for the Special Town Meeting must include the entire FY17 budget, and not just the line items with the proposed budget reductions. However, the seventeen line items in question will be boldfaced.

Reporting on his latest **shared services meeting**, with Sheffield and Great Barrington in attendance, Mr. Yohalem said there was a lengthy discussion of the problems facing the rescue squad in finding **drivers for the ambulance**. He said the group explored the idea of **possibly regionalizing the service**, using Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad in Great Barrington as a hub. However, as Selectman Shalaby pointed out, that's the focus of a similar effort by state Rep. William (Smitty) Pignatelli working under the aegis of the governor's Community Compact. She suggested instead that Mr. Yohalem provide Rep. Pignatelli with the Town's input, which he said he would do after talking with the rescue squad. Mr. Yohalem said he also brought

up the more controversial idea of towns sharing fire fighting equipment because, as he put it, "buying all that expensive equipment is a real drain on town finances."

Finally, he summarized for the Board his **recent meeting with the Land Trust**, noting that it is willing to let the Town use its field across from the Village Green for Burritt Day parking, if the Town needed it. He said the Land Trust board has also agreed to donate the land adjacent to the Lee Memorial Cemetery in Southfield to be used for additional cemetery plots. But he did not get an answer, he said, regarding his proposal that

the Land Trust pay the Town \$2,000 a year in lieu of taxes on the Joffe Nature Sanctuary and an adjacent parcel of Land Trust land.

July 11: Chairman Yohalem called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with all three selectmen present. The first order of business was an update from Town Administrator Enoch on

the **status of the land acquisitions and easements** needed for the Hadsell Street bridge project. She reported the Town has received donations of a 365 square-foot piece of land and two temporary easements from Jane Tant of Hadsell Street. She's the third property owner to donate land to the Town for the project. The Town also received an appraisal of \$500 for the purchase of 499 square feet of land plus two permanent easements on property owned by Dr. James Rippe on Canaan Southfield Road. He will have thirty days, Ms. Enoch said, in which to accept the offer from the Town. The appraisal, which was requested by Dr. Rippe, was performed by O'Connor Real Estate Associates of Westfield at a cost to the Town of \$3,925.

Mr. Yohalem said Highway Superintendent Loring has notified the Board of a plan by **the state to set aside \$50 million for bridge repairs, but it only applies to bridges that are no greater than twenty feet in length**. According to Mr. Loring, the town doesn't have any bridges of that size in need of immediate repair. So instead, the town's outside engineering firm, BSC Group, is proposing that the Town send the state a letter **asking for permission to repair three bridges longer than twenty feet, all of which have had their weight limits reduced by the state because of their condition**. They are the twenty-seven-foot Lumbert Cross Road bridge, which has been reduced to a limit of twelve tons; the thirty-six-foot Canaan Southfield Road bridge near Southfield Branch Road, also reduced to twelve tons, and the thirty-four-foot Keyes Hill bridge, reduced to three tons. "BSC thinks we have a shot at it because there's very little permitting involved," Mr. Yohalem said, "so the work could be done very quickly." Besides, he said, "We really have nothing to lose."

Highway Superintendent Loring noted that the town has no bridges of less than twenty feet to be eligible for state funding, but the Town's engineering BSC Group suggested applying for longer bridges that have had their weight limits reduced.

The Board authorized Mr. Yohalem to sign this year's agreement with Cartographic Associates of Lunenburg to **update the Town's tax maps**. Tax maps typically have to be updated on a yearly basis. The fee this year is \$2,900.

At last week's meeting, Mr. Yohalem noted that **the lease on the transfer station was due to expire at the end of June and that he was going to update the lease** for another three-year term at \$7,700 a year, a \$700-per-year increase and send it to transfer station landlord Maurice Brazie for his approval. But before he could do that, the Town received a letter from Mr. Brazie stating that he's willing to renew the lease for another three-year term at the current rent of \$7,000 a year. As Mr. Yohalem noted, "this was less than we were prepared to offer," and he said he has drafted a letter, which he hasn't sent yet, thanking Mr. Brazie for the proposal and accepting it on behalf of the Town. However, Selectman Shalaby felt that rather than having "letters that go back and forth that don't necessarily connect," she recommended having Town Administrator Enoch meet with Mr. Brazie to discuss the lease "and to make sure all of this is okay with him." She also suggested informing Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman of these developments, since he's ultimately responsible for the operation of the transfer station, which Mr. Yohalem said he would do.

Selectman White briefed the Board on a **mutual aid agreement that would allow town residents to use an emergency shelter** being set up at Bard College at Simon's Rock. She said the program was initiated by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission working with emergency management directors of the individual towns, and that there would be no cost to New Marlborough unless there's an emergency in which town residents actually use the shelter, which she noted will be stocked with emergency supplies. The Board voted to authorize Mr. Yohalem to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town.

Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch reported the Planning Board did not meet last week, as expected, to vote on accepting the road layout plan for the Hadsell Street bridge and instead will meet this week on Wednesday, July 13. As previously noted, the road

layout plan must be approved by the Planning Board before it can be voted on at the Special Town Meeting July 25.

The Board discussed the recent appearance of all those **bright yellow High Speed Internet signs that have sprouted up all over Town and agreed that whoever put them there is in violation of the Town's sign policy**, which requires the consent of the Board before signs can be placed on town property. So the Board decided the signs should be picked up by the police department and stored at Town Hall until the owner, which turns out to be Schilling TV, a small, Pittsfield-based television and cable repair shop offering satellite-based internet service, decides to come and get them. However, at Mr. Yohalem's suggestion, Chief Frank will be asked to call Schilling first and tell them they have forty-eight hours to collect their signs before the police department does. "That way to the extent they pick them up, it'll be less work for Graham to do," Mr. Yohalem said.

And finally the Board completed its annual review and approval of town officer appointments by **reappointing Tim Newman as the Town's WiredWest delegate**. □

Peter Schuyten

The New Marlborough Fire Company's 23rd Annual

Pig Roast

Saturday, August 20

at the

Emergency Services Center
Norfolk Road, Southfield

Dinner Served 5 to 7 p.m.
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THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

This year, the Planning Board will be updating our Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). This has not been done since 2004, and our OSRP must be updated for the town to be eligible for planning grants. While grants are one reason for the timing of the update, there are other meaningful reasons to update. If the plan is to provide meaningful direction to our Planning Board, the residents of New Marlborough must play an active role in its update. To do your part, complete the Planning Board's survey, attend meetings, and consider becoming a member of the Planning Board.

Please take time to look at the current plan and note that New Marlborough was addressing a growing population in 2004. Today, population projections are very different. Additionally, please take a look at the 2004 survey comments, and you'll see that some interests and concerns remain applicable while others do not, and we likely have some new ones to add.

The OSRP addresses protected land for purposes that are of concern to everyone. The frequent conversations in town about how much land should be protected

versus how much our tax revenue is decreased by land protection can be addressed. In addition to open space and recreation, we have an opportunity to discuss land purposes like household and fire-safety water, cemeteries, and agriculture.

Here are some details so you can get engaged: First, if you're interested in joining the Planning Board, please contact a Planning Board member or a selectman. Two seats are available and we'd like to fill them as soon as possible to get new members quickly involved in this important task. Second, if you have not yet completed the anonymous survey, please do so on line. (Find the link in the Planning Board's section of the Town web site.) Third, attend the public hearings that the Board will be holding or speak/email directly with members of the Planning Board or Board of Selectmen.

This is an opportunity we may not have again for many years. Please do your part to make it meaningful. □

Michele Shalaby

FINALLY, A BUDGET

On July 25, New Marlborough voters brought their wishes in line with their willingness to pay for them. At a briskly conducted Special Town Meeting, the Town voted a new budget that reduced the FY17 budget by \$57,200 less than was approved at the Annual Town Meeting. When a budget breaches the 2½ percent levy limit imposed by the state, voters have to agree to waive the limit. A week after the annual meeting, New Marlborough voted to remain within the limit. The new budget comes in just under the wire.

Voters also approved a so-called layout, in effect a

survey, of the road connections to the Hadsell Street bridge. Until now, a formal map of the way the three roads (Umpachene Falls, Canaan Southfield, and Hadsell Street) intersect with the bridge did not exist. State and federal agencies that are paying for the new bridge — construction begins next year — required it. □

Joe Poindexter

First *AUGUST 5* Fridays *SEPTEMBER 2*

All programs, free and open to the public

August 5

On its 150th anniversary, a pictorial history of Mill River's Immaculate Conception Church, 7:00 p.m. at the Meeting House Gallery

September 2

Shays' Rebellion, the Battle That Ended the Revolutionary War 7:30 p.m. at the Meeting House Main Hall

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

July 9: Commission members Ned Wilson, Freddie Friedman, and Rona Easton convened the meeting and opened the hearing for a Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by the BSC Group for the repair of two culverts on Clayton Mill River Road. Peter Reed and Teresa Portante, both civil engineers from the BSC Group, explained that both culverts are perked and will be repaired to meet the Massachusetts River and Stream Crossing Standards. BSC is still waiting for a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and sign-off from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program. The Commission agreed to continue the hearing until the next meeting on July 30, anticipating that by then the necessary information will have been received.

Next, Melissa Cody from Tighe and Bond presented a Request for Determination (RDA) to remove three telephone poles that are located in islands at Brewer Hill Road and Clayton Mill River Road. Ms. Cody then explained that six new poles will be installed and that the proposed location for one of those poles is in the floodplain. Ms. Cody asked the Commission if an NOI is required. The Commission agreed that, although the one pole is in a resource area, the work will not adversely affect or alter the area. The RDA was given a negative determination with no further permitting required.

Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering and

Attorney Nick Arienti next addressed the Commission for their client, Sanford Pantich, of 1143 Hartsville New Marlborough Road, in response to an Enforcement Order issued on June 2 by the Commission. The order was issued for a violation of the Wetlands Protection Act because no permitting had been submitted for the installation of a 1,000-square-foot gravel road that impacts two resource areas – riverfront and bordering vegetated wetlands. Ms. Boomsma explained how the area would be brought to compliance and remediated. After some discussion, the Commission requested that the owner submit an NOI for review at the next meeting and that the NOI would serve to satisfy the terms of the Enforcement Order and meet the permitting requirements.

The Commission then revisited the status of the Enforcement Order issued to Zufer Derisevic of 212 East Hill Road. The Commission received a letter from Mike Kulig of White Engineering stating that he had been retained by Mr. Derisevic. The Commission agreed to invite Mr. Kulig and his client to come to the next meeting to discuss their compliance with the Enforcement Order and any further required permitting.

Lastly the minutes were read and approved with minor edits. □

Martha Bryan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On July 14, Charlie Parton submitted his resignation from the Planning Board to the Board of Selectmen. The Board accepted his resignation at its meeting of July 25, with regret, and with sincere thanks for his service to the Town in many capacities over the years.

To Nat Yohalem, Tara White and Michele Shalaby; Patricia Hardyman, Mark Carson and Jamie Mullen: Members of the New Marlborough Select and Planning Boards, and those great people employed by or volunteering to the Town:

This Wednesday evening, the 13th of July, 2016, it is with real regret that I must resign from service to you, my friends on the Planning Board, and the people of New Marlborough. Since moving to a 'community' as a citizen (rather than a student) I have served on over twenty boards and commissions of various types and values in five city or town governments in Massachusetts and Connecticut, the United States Foreign Service branch of the State Department, and the Colonial Service of Great Britain. At this time, I realize that though my faculties are still in good shape, my inclination to deal with the stresses inherent in service to others has passed on, and retirement has finally attained a desire equal to the old-fashioned meaning attached to the word. Thank you for all your courtesies, friendship, and help.

Charlie

Mr. Parton added this postscript:

I devoted time to my community to honor the expectations of my parents, who told us we all had a responsibility to serve our country and the towns where we lived. And I write now as a call to our townspeople to offer their help. We all have a responsibility to the community in which we live.



BROADBAND UPDATE

The Work Continues

By Barry R. Shapiro. Additional reporting by Joe Poindexter

Now that the state funding logjam has broken, the New Marlborough Broadband Committee is exploring the best options to bring long-delayed fiber optic service to town as quickly as possible. With such small towns as Mount Washington hoping to have blazing fast service in the next few years, the importance of moving forward quickly — or being left in the digital dust — is growing.

To this end, on July 13, the Broadband Committee received a presentation from Michael J. Cicchetti, director, government and external affairs, Frontier Communications, as well as Kevin Smith, Vice President of Business Development. Frontier, which started as a rural phone company in New York, now operates in twenty-nine states, employs 29,000 workers and offers phone, television, and broadband services. Mr. Cicchetti claimed that Frontier is now the eighth-largest communications company in the world and ranks in the Fortune 1,000.

Frontier is offering to build, operate and maintain a fiber-optic network that would connect every residence in town. This network would deliver not only broadband but also a television package of programs, and analog or VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone service. “Every house in town would be wired at no cost, unless people refused it,” said Richard Long, chair of the Broadband Committee. “In addition, every house will get 18 megabits per second (mbs) of free Internet service, which is much faster than DSL, for example. Those wanting higher speeds would, of course, pay for the services they want, which could be 100 mbs, or one day, even one gigabit of speed which is incredibly fast.”

New Marlborough would pay for this service by entering into a fifteen-year contract with Frontier with a fee based on the number of households in New Marlborough. The amount of this fee is not yet determined, because Frontier needs to do its homework on the costs of the build-out. In some rural towns where Frontier already operates, this fee is \$20 a month. Mr. Cicchetti said the fee in New Marlborough might be closer to \$30 a month which works out to about \$396,000 per year (1,100 households x \$30 x twelve months = \$396,000). The town would presumably recoup this payment by billing users of the broadband, phone and television services. The fee would be expected to reduce, perhaps by as much as one-half after year five and, after year fifteen, there would be no fee payable.

Mr. Long noted that the cost which the town would need to pay would be reduced by a grant from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (which could be \$900,000) as well as other potential sources of revenue such as connection access funds from the Federal Communications Commission, a municipal lighting

plant administrative fee and even revenue sharing from Frontier based on fees paid by users of more expensive services. “We are exploring all possible avenues to reduce the cost to the town,” Mr. Long stated. “The legal structure of this arrangement is being explored so we can present something to the town.” New Marlborough would be Frontier’s first operation in Massachusetts, with the town being attractive to Frontier since it currently serves the contiguous town of Norfolk, Connecticut.

If the town were to sign on with Frontier, the system could be up and running in three years or less, depending on how much cooperation it gets from Verizon in completing the make-ready phase. “We would hope to start construction next year. The network could be lit and services provided as the system is built out and we would not need to wait until every house is wired,” said Mr. Long. Frontier will run cable directly to the home — no matter the length of driveway — but will use the least expensive method of doing so. Homeowners wishing, for example, to have the cable buried would have to pay an extra fee.

Asked about the Frontier proposal, Peter Larkin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (the state agency providing some of the financing), said he liked it and would be willing to put MBI’s share of the financing into it.

Richard Long welcomes questions and comments from the New Marlborough community. He can be reached at richardlong7491@gmail.com.

As to WiredWest, the position of MBI that it will not provide funding for any town which signs on with WiredWest has not changed, and WiredWest is not being considered at this time by the Broadband Committee as an owner or operator of the network. Tim Newman, the Town’s delegate to WiredWest, says that the new business model adopted by WiredWest would not require MBI’s consent. “WiredWest would no longer own or operate the network. Instead, our new model has us serving essentially as the administrative arm of any towns which want to come together and use our service to administer their relationship with the owner or operator. MBI’s consent is not necessary for that.”

Mr. Long noted that the use of a third party administrator, if any, such as WiredWest, is an issue which would be addressed down the road.

So, while the saga continues, a high resolution ending is suddenly coming into focus. □

**This article is based, in part, on notes taken by Joe Poindexter at the July 13 Broadband Committee meeting, for which the author expresses his gratitude.*

CULTURAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES ELIHU BURRITT AWARD

by Mary Richie Smith

To discover New Marlborough and the Berkshires, coming from quite another part of the country, is one thing. To decide to settle in here and find a way of life is also not unheard of. But to become indispensable to this community in one area after another – ah, that is to be marveled at. And commended. Hence, this year's Elihu Burritt award is being bestowed on Barbara and David Lowman.

The Lowmans were originally from Michigan, where they both served in Michigan's State Department of Education. But being bureaucrats, however significant, did not really suit them. They longed for another way of life. They were familiar with the Berkshires, having had a cottage on Lake Garfield, and loved the area. They learned that the Southfield Store was for sale. So they took a brave gamble, leaving behind a way of life, family, and two salaries.

This was in 1980. David was a bit worried about the famed New England stand-offishness, but they found instead a warm reception. David was so impressed by the neighborly outreach that he joined the Fire Department. How could people not be welcoming when David would, when needed, bolt to the firehouse up the street to drive the fire truck?

For twenty-one years the Southfield Store was the place to go for groceries, meats and wines, and people did go. People stayed home more then, entertained more. Great Barrington didn't have many restaurants at that time. People's children were young. But change came, and the store was no longer a going concern. So in 2001 they gave it up, and closed the store.

But for another ten years, they continued an even more essential function, the postal delivery. When the post office was located in the store, they had for a time been its landlord. But that was hardly all. They undertook the rural delivery, an arduous route that took about three hours to complete. And during their thirty-year stint, the number of boxes they served grew from 90 to 145.

Bureaucracy on a state level may not have appealed, but local government – that was another matter. Between the store and the postal delivery, the Lowmans took in a lot about town matters. So, in 1986 David ran for selectman, serving for nine years. Again, he served from 2006 to 2009, for a total of twelve years.

He has served also as cemetery commissioner and town moderator (which takes a good



Barbara and David Lowman

grasp of Roberts' Rules of Order.)

Barbara, in addition to co-running the store and co-delivering the mail, has been very active on the Cultural Council. She has served two six-year terms, 1997 to 2003 and 2009 to 2015, and is now starting her third term. During her first term, which she co-chaired with Nanci Worthington, only funds from the state grant were available. But by her second term, fund-raising had become very important and very successful, so much more can be sponsored. And there is, of course, Burritt Day to oversee.

Oh, and the *New Marlborough Five Village News*, which the Lowmans helped start seventeen years ago. Barbara edits about half the issues, has been a reporter, and writes the Neighbors column. In the early years of the paper, David covered the selectmen's meetings. He is now the treasurer and business manager. For the fun of it, and it is fun, every year he comes up with the April Fool piece.

Sometimes, they say, they feel they have lived here a long time. No wonder, as their days in New Marlborough have been so productive. Their life had been so different, before they came here. Now, says David, there's no place they'd rather be.

And here is where we want them to be. □

photo by Larry Burke

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CREATIVITY CLOSE TO HOME

Eight New Marlborough Artists Get a Chance to Shine

By Pam Stebbins

The annual New Marlborough Artists show opens Friday, September 2, with a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception with the artists from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This show provides unique insight into the resident arts community in New Marlborough. Now in its nineteenth season, it highlights the creativity of eight artists who have chosen to live and work in this community.

Shawn Fields is a painter who moved with his family from New York City to Mill River in 2010. He and his wife Kenzie find New Marlborough a beautiful and happy place to raise three children, and they particularly value the unique sense of community they find here.

Shawn's work has somewhat of a Norman Rockwell quality to it. He showed me a painting he is currently working on and referred to it as a "distilled version of life." It is a scene with children taking part in an activity, but with closer observation the deeper metaphor for what it is to be human comes alive. The painting emotes the rich interaction amongst the participants. Although each figure is carefully articulated through such elements as posture, clothing, expression, color, etc., all the different figures are essential to the whole.

Shawn's large paintings are often inspired by an idea emerging from any of the many facets of his life: husband, father, member of the community, naturalist, sportsman,

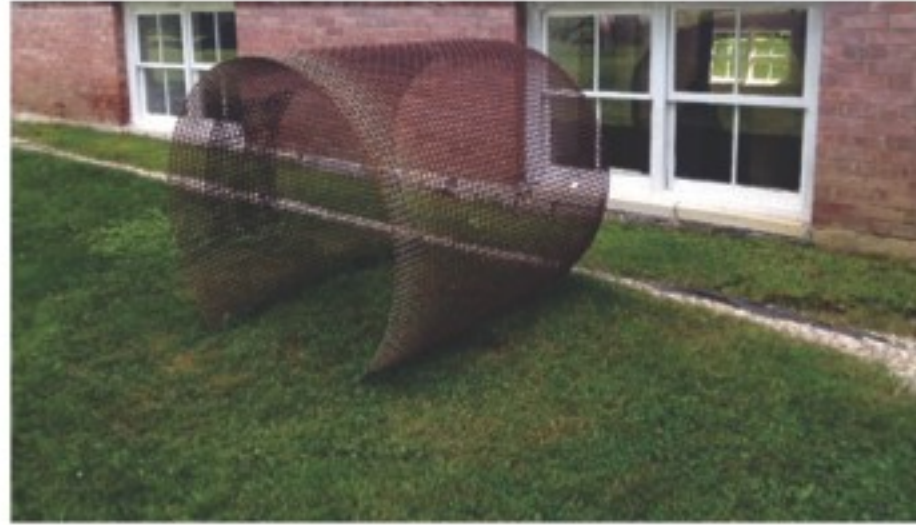
and keen observer of humanity (with all its foibles!). As the idea germinates, he makes many sketches, refining those into a finished drawing where lots of work is done to distill the details. The final version is painted in oil on panels made by Peter Murkett of New England Modern. This process can take up to a year when combined with other, smaller projects.

Pamela Hardcastle is a garden designer and florist. She is a long-time resident of the Berkshires and bought her present house in New Marlborough Village in 1990. She "loves living in this community and finds the people and the place inspiring."

Pamela's summer studio is located in a creatively landscaped segment of her property. Here, she experiments with live flowers, plants, and trees in combination with metal, glass, steel, or stone to create mini-gardens and sculpture-like forms.

She has a special appreciation for nature's bounty and applies her artistic interest in proportion, color, space, and movement to everything she creates. Having spent many hours exploring nature as a child and an adult, Pamela believes that nature is itself a teacher. She often finds something beautiful on her walks in the neighboring fields and woods, takes it home, ponders it for a while, and then begins to rework it into something different.

Pamela sees the invitation to be in this show as a



Top, 'Point of View', by Pam Hardcastle, as seen in last years' 'Portals' show at the Meeting House Gallery. Bottom, Shawn Fields works on a painting



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grand opportunity to explore new visual territory. She is setting aside time away from the constraints of her daily design business to dig a little deeper into her creative side. Come and see what wonderful work of art emerges from this plan!

Other participating artists include Larry Burke, Ritch Holben, Cheryl Ann Luft, Bruno Quinson, Constance Sussman, and Tanya Walker. The show, sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association, will be on view 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until October 2. The Meeting House Gallery is located on Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green. □

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Meanwhile, It's Still 'Wild'

Wild Life, the second art show of the 2016 season, opened on July 29th and continues through August 28th. Twenty-three Berkshire artists reveal myriad interpretations of the show's theme through photography, fabric art, sculpture, metal, wood and stone.

The Gallery is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and is located in the New Marlborough Meeting House on Route 57 on the Village Green. □

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August 27 Neave Trio

Performing Haydn Trio in D major Hob.XV no.16, Dvorak Trio in f minor op.65, and Piazzolla "Estaciones Porteñas". One of the finest emerging young chamber ensembles today.



September 3 Douglas Trumbull

Join us at Trumbull Studios in Southfield for a presentation and demonstration in the Magi Theater Pod where you will see works-in-progress of a revolutionary new movie technology. Advance tickets required.



September 10 Simon Shaheen

Simon Shaheen is joined by a percussionist and a qanun player for a program of traditional Egyptian and Syrian music, plus improvisations and original compositions by Simon Shaheen.



**September 17 Simone Dinnerstein
Harold Lewin Memorial Concert**

Pianist Simone Dinnerstein performs Schubert and Glass. Dinnerstein gained an international following after the remarkable success of her recording of Bach's Goldberg Variations.



September 24 The Sebastians

A dynamic and vital musical ensemble specializing in music of the baroque and classical eras. Present "Over the Alps", tracing the musical evolution of the Italian style, with baroque instrumentals and the soprano Awet Andemicael.



October 1 Clarinetist Paul Green and combo

Paul Green and his Jazz/Jewish fusionband "Two Worlds" collaborate with world renowned Sephardic Singer Sarah Aroeste in a program that presents Jazz, Klezmer and Sephardic music.



**October 8 Award-Winning Authors
with host Simon Winchester**

Writer Simon Winchester with guest **Novelist Nicholson Baker**, an American novelist and essayist. He received a National Book Critics Circle Award in 2001 for his nonfiction book "Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper and the International Hermann Hesse Prize in 2014."



Receptions with the artists after the performances
Art Gallery shows through Oct. 2nd

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION: www.newmarlborough.org (413) 229-2785



LAND TRUST NEWS

Twenty-eight enthusiasts and five dogs gathered to inaugurate the opening of the South Loop trail at Steepletop Reserve, Berkshire Natural Resources Council's 1,230 acre reserve off of North Road. As co-holder of the conservation restriction with the Trustees of Reservations, the New Marlborough

Land Trust helps steward the property. Last month Land Trust volunteers helped clear and shape the new trail which rambles along old wood roads, past wetlands active with beavers, and through mature mixed hardwood forest. On a steamy Saturday morning we enjoyed the results of our work. The dogs wallowed in beaver mud and the group enjoyed the easy terrain, BNRC's new trail signage, and the shade of the forest canopy. The two completed trails at the reserve, the North and South Loops, each two miles long, are a delight for both dogs and humans and are for all to enjoy. □

Martha Bryan



photo by Martha Bryan

The group, and two of the dogs, who inaugurated Steepletop's South Loop trail.

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UPCOMING: *Events Calendar for August and September*

August 5: The History of the Immaculate Conception Church in Mill River, on its 150th anniversary, 7:00 p.m. (note the new time) at the Meeting House Gallery, a First Friday program presented by the New Marlborough Historical Society and free and open to the public

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

August 13: New Marlborough Village Cemetery restoration; cleaning and resetting headstones in the town's oldest burying ground; 10:00 a.m. to noon, followed by a picnic lunch

August 19: Last day to register to vote in the state primary; see Town Clerk Kathy Chretien at the Town Hall

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

August 26-28: the final three days of Wild Life, a mixed media show; 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Meeting House Gallery

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

September 2: New Marlborough Artists, the annual show of the extraordinary talent of local artists, opening 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with wine and hors d'oeuvres at the Meeting House Gallery and on view 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays until October 2

September 2: Shays' Rebellion, the last battle of the Revolutionary War, explained by UMass Professor Leonard Richards; 7:30 p.m., upstairs at the Meeting House

September 3: Tour and demonstration of Douglas Trumbull's Magi Theater Pod, the laboratory where Mr. Trumbull invents and eye-popping special effects for the movie screen; 4:30 p.m. at the Trumbull Studio in Southfield; advance tickets, \$25, \$20 for members of the Village Association, are required and can be reserved at contact@newmarlborough.org or 413 229-2785

September 8: Primary election for Massachusetts State Senate, in which three Democrats are vying to run for the seat being vacated by Benjamin Downing, Town Hall 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

September 10: Composer, violinist and oud player Simon Shaheen, accompanied by a percussionist, in a program of traditional Syrian and Egyptian music; 4:30 p.m.; concert in the main hall of the Meeting House, post-concert wine and cheese in the Gallery; \$25, \$20 for members of the Village Association

September 10: Second morning of New Marlborough Village Cemetery restoration; cleaning and resetting headstones in the town's oldest burying ground; 10:00 to noon, followed by a picnic lunch

September 17: Pianist Simone Dinnerstein, in a program of Schubert and Philip Glass; 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House; concert in the main hall of the Meeting House, post-concert wine and cheese in the Gallery; \$25, \$20 for members of the Village Association

September 24: The Sebastians, a celebrated ensemble specializing in baroque and classical music, trace the evolution of early music from Italy into Austria and Germany, with pieces by Buxtehude, Biber, Handel, and others; 4:30 p.m.; concert in the main hall of the Meeting House, post-concert wine and cheese in the Gallery; \$25, \$20 for members of the Village Association

Music and (Decidedly) More

For fans of diverse programming, there is more in the 25th anniversary of Music and More.

Classical music, of course, is still firmly rooted in this season's programming, the first assembled without Harold Lewin, the originator and guiding spirit of Music and More through its first twenty-four years. On August 27, the Naeve Trio (violin, cello, and piano) will play the works of Haydn, Dvorak and Piazzola. On September 17, the brilliant Simone Dinnerstein performs piano pieces by Franz Schubert and Philip Glass, arguably the 20th century's preeminent minimalist. Her program is a memorial to Mr. Lewin, who died a year and a half ago. And on the following Saturday, The Sebastians, a renowned early music ensemble, will trace the influence of the Italian baroque, as it crossed the Alps into the musical centers of Austria and Germany, with the vocal and instrumental works of Buxtehude, Biber, Handel, and others.

But the season is also spiced with three surprises. On September 3, Douglas Trumbull, a multiple Academy Award winner, will initiate visitors to his Southfield studio into the magic of visual effect creativity, showing how he achieved the spectacular imagery used in such films as *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and *Star Trek — the Movie*. He will also reveal his latest visual legerdemain: the cutting-edge technology being developed in his Magi Theater Pod.

On September 10, Simon Shaheen will introduce the audience to the traditional music of Syria and Egypt, as played on an oud (a lute-like instrument of Middle Eastern descent), a ganun (a type of hammered dulcimer), and percussion instruments. Mr. Shaheen, a composer and winner of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, heads the Arabic Music Retreat, held annually at Mount Holyoke College. On October 1, clarinetist Paul Green will present an electric fusion of jazz, klezmer, and Sephardic music. He will be joined by the mesmerizing Sephardic singer, Sarah Aroeste.

The season closes on October 8 with a conversation between non-fiction writer Simon Winchester (*The Professor and the Madman*, *Krakatoa*, and, most recently,

books on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans) and author Nicholson Baker (*Vox*, *The Fermata*, *House of Holes*, a trio of highly sexualized novels). As visitors to last year's Award-winning Authors already know, Mr. Winchester is a consummate conversationalist and the quirky Mr. Baker promises to be an able foil.

The programs, held at the New Marlborough Meeting House, begin at 4:30 p.m. and, as always, are followed by gatherings with the artists over wine and cheese in the Meeting House Gallery. Tickets are available at the door, except for the tour of the Trumbull studio, which must be reserved in advance on line at contact@newmarlborough.org or by calling 413 229-2785. □

Joe Poindexter



The Naeve Trio perform on August 27

photo by Joe Poindexter



JULY 8



JULY 15

What a difference a week makes! As extensive renovations proceed on the Meeting House, on July 8 the steps had been removed. By July 15 the steps had been replaced and work begun on the cupola. On July 16, cushions from all the pews were removed so that interior sanding and painting could start. The goal is to have all the work completed and the Meeting House in full working order before the first Music and More concert on August 27.

photo by Larry Burke

Burrith Day Is On The Way

Plans are being finalized for the forty-second celebration of Elihu Burrith Day on August 20. The Cultural Council hopes that the traditional good weather will hold once again. The fair will take place on the New Marlborough Village Green from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Two of the mainstay activities, the Cultural Council's white elephant sale and the Friends of the Library's Book and Bake Sale, will carry on all day. A wide variety of crafts from local artists and artisans will be available for purchase. And there'll be plenty of food, too, from coffee and water to snacks, to lunch, and sweets.

Other all-day activities will include the ninth annual Classic Car Show organized by John Schreiber, which attracts a wide-ranging variety of old vehicles. Perennial favorites of a petting zoo from John and Mershele Springstube, and festive hayrides courtesy of Freddie Friedman will be available as well.

Appraiser Charles Flint will join Burrith Day again, and will be happy to offer appraisals of items brought in – or pictures of items too large to carry in. His modest fee is a donation to the Cultural Council. And new this year: Live music provided by Rob Sanzone!

Other events will occur on a schedule. The 5K race leads off the festivities at 10:00 a.m. Roger the Jester will perform at 11:00. Winners of the various categories of 5K race contestants will be awarded at noon. This will be followed by the presentation of the Elihu Burrith



photo by Larry Burke

The Book and Bake Sale, conducted by the Friends of the Library, is a major feature of Burrith Day. Each year hundreds of books are collected at Town Hall during specified hours, and the Friends set to work to organize the books into categories for the sale. Here, Katherine Silverblatt, Janice McSpirtt, and Sally Turner begin that monumental task.

Award for community service by Representative Smitty Pignatelli. Henry the Juggler will demonstrate his impressive skills at 1:00, as well as teach some of those skills to willing participants.

Burrith Day is always a great opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors, purchase white elephant treasures or an armload of books, check out the local crafts on display, and enjoy some great food and entertainment. Please join the fun! □

Barbara Lowman

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NEIGHBORS



Have you noticed the beautiful floral display at the intersection of East Hill Road just across from the Southfield Store? Or the stunning cauldron overflowing with vibrant flowering plants across from the Old Inn on Route 57? If so, the next time you see **Elise Richman** of Passionflower Landscape Design of Southfield, give her a big thanks for contributing and maintaining these terrific summertime additions to our community. And, if you haven't noticed these lovely horticultural displays, take a look the next time you're passing by.



photo by Barry R Shapiro

Nat Yohalem, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, presented service anniversary awards to **Robert Palmer** and **Marsha Pshenishny**. Mr. Palmer, who works for the Highway Department in the winter and the Cemetery Commission the rest of the year, is celebrating thirty-four years of employment with the Town, while Ms. Pshenishny is celebrating thirty years in the assessors' office. The awards were presented at the Town Hall on June 11.



photo by Peter Schuyten

A Trove of Tinkers: In 1906, **Joseph B. Tinker**, a graduate of mechanical engineering from Cornell University, bought the 1780 Uzziel Clark house, the oldest residence in Clayton, and became manager of the Berkshire White Portland Cement Company. There are no

Tinkers currently living in New Marlborough, but when it came time for a gathering of the clan, the Clark/Tinker homestead, still standing just north of the Clayton Church of God, was the obvious choice. Hosted, in part, by **Don Beauchamp** (no relation but he lives there), the party was held July 3 and included four grandsons, one great-grandson, one granddaughter, two great-granddaughters, two nephews, two great-nephews, two great-nieces, and one great-great-nephew. In addition to all the Tinkering, there were birthdays to celebrate: eight of the clan turn fifty this year. □



photo by Joe Pindexter

From left, top row: Mason Lee Tinker, his mother, Barbara P Tinker. Middle row: Joe Caswell (married to Erin Tinker), Richard T. HULETT, Jeff Bye, Melissa Bye, Jordon Tinker, Rob DWORAK, Ellen Dworak, Pete DWORAK, Fred Hulett. Front row: Joan Hulett, Erin Tinker, Norman Tinker, Celia JUNE., Kim Hulett, Andrea Tinker, Wayne Tinker, Brigette Tinker, David Tinker. (Grandchildren of Joseph B. Tinker in caps.)

Neighbors compiled by Barbara Lowman:
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OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

Don Beauchamp of Clayton had some interesting sightings in June and July: “Proof that it’s not good to forget to carry a cell phone with a camera is that I missed on three occasions **baby ducks** swimming up the Konkapot River out back, not to mention a nice **red fox**. But I did get some photos on June 19 of a **green heron**, and on June 21 of an **eastern milk snake** that was right in my face

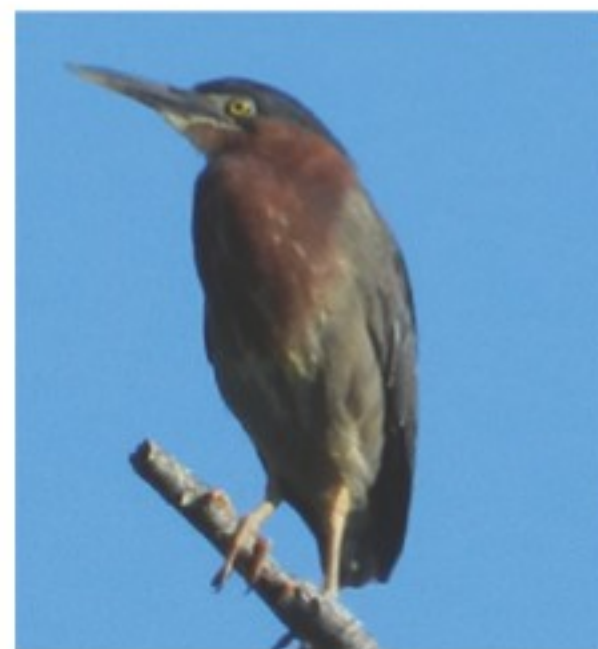


photo by Don Beauchamp

when I opened a box lid. It was about thirty inches long, and I think that was the fastest I’ve moved in a long time! I should not have been completely surprised, though, as I had found a shedded skin just before. (Note to our readers – You should try to view this beautiful snake in full color at our website, www.NM5VN.org!)



photo by Don Beauchamp

“**Downy and red-bellied woodpeckers** are still trying to drink from the hummingbird feeder, much to the dismay of the hummers. Also, I have **nesting bluebirds**, spotted at least one egg, and now I can see at least one

baby. The blues are flying in and out all day, and I will attempt to get a photo in the next few days.”

Sightings of **black bears** have been unusually common as this summer has progressed. **David Lowman** saw a **mother bear with three cubs** back in mid-June. **Kristen Sparhawk** and her children saw another female, also with three very small cubs, crossing the Flying Cloud driveway on July 5. **Tricia Nahmias**, who has a home on Lake Buel writes: “On Wednesday, July 6, at 4:30 p.m. my husband and I went across the lake to water jog with my aunt. We docked our boat at her house and jogged past Camp Half Moon. I noticed a large dark mound at the water’s edge about one hundred yards from us. We looked again and saw it was a **bear** walking into the water. He swam out a ways, turned over and lay on his back, and then came back out with a fish in his mouth! We were all shocked.”



photo by Don Beauchamp

Sandra Walker, who lives in the Hartsville area reports: “I came home after stopping by the farmers’ market and found **two bears** visiting. The first one was sporting two bright red tags imprinted with the number sixty-five in his ears, and he headed straight for my deck. The other, smaller and younger, came through about a half an hour later to visit the pumpkin patch.”



photo by Sandra Walker

Perhaps not by coincidence, **Jill Lipsky** saw the same **double-tagged bear** near her home not far from Hartsville. We asked our own cub reporter, **Angus Kerr**, to do a little scratching around for information on the tagging of bears in our area, and this is what he found: “Recently there have been numerous sightings of bears wandering through our backyards or across roads, occasionally followed by the pitter-patter of little cubs. Among these sightings, there have been encounters with a bear boasting two red, numbered tags in each ear. But why? There are two possibilities: the first is that the bear might be a ‘trouble bear,’

meaning that it has a track record of problems. Upon capture, the bear is given a single red tag in one ear and then released. If found causing problems a second time, the bear gets a second tag. If the bear is caught a third time, it might be euthanized. However, the tags on our Hartsville bear do not indicate misbehavior. Instead, the tag is from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Preservation (DEEP), which has been tagging bears to monitor their movements, population, and lifespan. This department greatly appreciates it when people call up to report the bear’s tag number, and its location. To call, dial 860-424-3000. That way, the department can track the bears, so that everyone can learn more about their lives.” □

Compiled by Larry Burke, lburke2@me.com

New Marlborough's 42nd Annual **Elihu Burritt Day**



The Fire Company Pig Roast and Block Dance

Saturday, August 20

On the Village Green (Rt. 57)

EVENT SCHEDULE

10:00 5K Fun Run/Walk

11:00 Roger the Jester

**12:00 Ceremony for
Elihu Burritt Award for
Community Service to
Barbara and David**

Lowman

1:00 Henry the Juggler

ALL DAY 10AM to 3PM

Eighth Annual Classic Car Show

Antiques Appraisals, Hayrides

Petting Zoo, Face Painting

White Elephant Sale & Silent Auction

Library Book & Bake Sale

Exhibitors and Crafters

Fire Trucks and First Responders

Live Music with Rob Sanzone

GREAT FOOD from

Cantina, Food Cart, Paella by Jean Pollock & The Southfield Store

At the Fire House in Southfield

23RD ANNUAL PIG ROAST 5:00PM to 7:00PM

Roast Pork / Roast Turkey / Potatoes / Corn / Salad / Dessert

Tickets: Adults \$20, Children \$7.50

Tickets available at the Mill River Store or at the door

LIVE MUSIC BY CORNERSTONE 7:00PM

Fire Company Raffle: \$1.00 each / 6 for \$5.00

ONE DAY-TWO GREAT EVENTS

**Sponsored by The New Marlborough Cultural Council &
The New Marlborough Volunteer Fire Company**

NEWS FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It felt a little like the morning your mom came down to breakfast and said, “Okay, today is the day you clean up your room.” Except in the case of the New Marlborough Historical Society the cleanup will take years. But on July 8, the Society got a start with a visit from Massachusetts roving archivist Rachel Onuf. Miss Onuf spent the day poring over documents in various locations around town and introducing the Society to the basic concepts of sifting, sorting, prioritizing, storing, and preserving. If that sounds exhausting, you know how the members of the Society’s document preservation committee felt at the end of the day.

But it was a beginning. Financed by a grant written by the committee’s chairman, David Hosford, Miss Onuf’s visit promises to be the first of several. Once the Society procures proper storage receptacles and shelving — and carves out a space to put things — Miss Onuf will return to tutor the preservationists among us in the ABCs of archiving.

Meanwhile, those interested in local history should mark their calendars with the final two First Friday programs, at the Meeting House Gallery on August 5, at 7:00 p.m. (not 7:30 as with other First Friday programs), Claudette Callahan and others will present a words-and-pictures history of the Immaculate Conception Church in Mill River on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. On September 2 in the main hall of the Meeting House, University of Massachusetts Professor Leonard Richards will talk about the impact of Shays’ Rebellion on the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and creation of a new a nation. Author of *Shays’ Rebellion: The American Revolution’s Final Battle*, Professor Richards is perhaps the nation’s preeminent historian on this chapter of American history.

Finally, Society members will again assemble for



photo by Joe Poindexter

Gathering for a wrap-up with archivist Rachel Onuf, far right, were the members of the document preservation committee, from left, Claudette Callahan, Judy Thompson, David Hosford, Deb O’Brien, and Kathy Chretien.

two mornings of cemetery restoration: August 13 and September 10. Gather at the New Marlborough Village cemetery (just off New Marlborough Branch Road) at 10:00 a.m. We’ll supply the brushes and cleaning fluids; you supply the elbow grease. Picnic lunch at noon. You will be helping preserve a priceless element of New Marlborough history. □

Joe Poindexter



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THE LOG

POLICE DEPARTMENT (SELECTED ENTRIES)

- June 1 8:30 a.m. Caller, who had visited Umpachene Falls Park the previous evening, reports witnessing what appeared to be a male "pleasuring" himself near the lower falls.
- 3:46 p.m. Officer expels a "large group of minors with alcohol" from Umpachene Falls Park.
- June 4 2:55 p.m. Hayes Hill Road resident complains of an out-of-service firetruck needlessly sounding its siren as it passed near his house. Firetruck driver claims it was only a greeting to his mother, but that he will desist in the future.
- June 6 7:06 p.m. Following up on a complaint from a Norfolk Road resident that her husband had been twice bitten by a neighbor's dog and that she feared for the safety of her five-year-old, Animal Control Officer requests that the dog be quarantined.
- June 8 8:40 p.m. Tree down on Norfolk Road.
- June 9 8:16 p.m. Logging truck strikes a telephone wire on Sisson Hill Road; Verizon notified.
- June 10 2:07 p.m. Truck runs off Adsit Crosby Road in an accident; is towed the following morning.
- 9:43 p.m. Following a complaint from a Clayton Mill River Road resident, officer discovers an open fire and a neighbor operating a tractor.
- June 11 10:28 a.m. East Hill Road resident asks for assistance in liberating a kitten from a car the keys of which have been locked inside.
- 12:00 p.m. Driver reports hitting a fawn at the intersection of Canaan Southfield and Cagney Hill Roads.
- 2:55 p.m. In response to a complaint of shooting near a Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road property, shooters apologize for the disturbance and heed a police officer's request to direct their firepower into a swamp area away from neighbors.
- June 15 2:33 p.m. Alum Hill Road resident reports being pushed down a flight of stairs in a domestic disturbance incident.
- June 22 1:35 p.m. Resident reports a trailer abandoned on Sisson Hill road.
- June 23 1:10 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road resident reports charges on his credit card he did not incur.
- June 24 3:12 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road resident reports receiving a call from an IRS scammer.
- 10:25 p.m. Arriving home, a Hayes Hill Road resident encounters a young woman claiming she had driven over to check on horses being paddocked there, but who then abruptly leaves; owner of the horses asserts that such a check-up would be abnormal at so late an hour.
- June 26 9:23 a.m. Cattle reported loose on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- June 27 3:12 p.m. Southfield Store employee reports regular 9:00 p.m. visits to a dumpster from a 300-pound bear, which favors an apparently injured left front leg.
- 9:15 p.m. State police notified of a bear attempting to get into a dumpster across from the Southfield Store.
- June 30 10:00 a.m. Canaan Southfield Road resident reports that his son has stolen his table saw and a miter saw; subsequently, charges were filed against the son for this and for the unauthorized credit card charges reported June 23
- 11:00 a.m. Lost driver's license, handed off to an officer at roadside, is brought to the Mill River General Store for return to its owner.



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Thank You to Our Contributors!

Kate Wenner & Gil Eisner; Anonymous; Ronald Yaple; Sheila Baird; Mike Skrak; Ronald & Maria Saunders

THE LOG: FIRE AND RESCUE


June 1	7:32 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call	June 13	12:50 a.m.	Brewer Hill Road Wires Down
June 3	11:31 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call	June 13	10:45 a.m.	New Marlborough Branch Road Medical Call
June 7	8:13 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call	June 13	1:14 p.m.	County Road MVA
June 7	10:01 a.m.	Southfield Mill River Road Truck Fire	June 14	9:47 a.m.	Hadsell Street Medical Call
June 9	1:16 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Fire Alarm	June 24	5:14 p.m.	Canaan Valley Road Medical Call
			June 25	9:42 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
			June 28	8:15 a.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call

FIRE COMPANY PIG ROAST: The New Marlborough Fire Company will hold its Annual Pig Roast and Block Dance on Saturday, August 20, at the fire station on Norfolk Road in Southfield -- dinner from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., followed by dancing to live music by Cornerstone and drawing of the Company's annual Grand Raffle, featuring more than fifty prizes from local businesses. Tickets, \$20 each, \$7.50 for children, are available at the Mill River General Store and from any Fire Company member. Call 229-0291 for more information.

Free 911 Signs Available: Through a generous grant from the Kiwanis Club of Sheffield, the New Marlborough Fire Company is giving 911 signs to residents who have not yet posted their 911 numbers. The signs, which typically cost \$20, are available for a limited time and can be ordered through David Herrick at the Mill River General Store. Any resident needing help installing a sign, simply mention it to David. We'll take it from there. It's a win-win. A 911 sign, posted at the end of the driveway and visible from both approaches to the home, helps provide timely response in the event of an emergency. And you get it for free. □

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A Flying Cloud Summer

The 13th Annual Flying Cloud Student Art Show at the Meeting House Gallery featured silk screen printing. Sophia Joffe of New Marlborough, a counselor-in-training at the Flying Cloud Summer SMArt Program, is seen in the photo at right with two examples of the students' work. Proceeds of sales of these t-shirts and posters go to the Susie Hardcastle Scholarship Fund.

During the first session of the summer program, theater director Kristen Sparhawk, music director Jon Suters, and film director Larry Burke worked with the older groups of children on a multimedia science theatre production, seen here in rehearsal. This original piece about the world of computers started with the tear-down of a computer led by Samee Swartz of Sandisfield just before she left for her new career at Google. Students learned about the hardware inside and how different components interact. Next they wrote a story and a script using this new knowledge so within a week the sixteen students were deeply into their production of *Troubles in Motherboard City*. Working with Larry Burke, the students created and animated clay figures on a miniature set resembling a computer's motherboard, and they also filmed live action scenes against a green screen that were then composited into the motherboard background. With Jon Suters guidance, the students created and performed three original songs that were woven into the story about overcoming a rampant computer virus. Overseeing this very complex enterprise, Kristen Sparhawk kept the team on track, guiding all to the finish line - a rousing multimedia performance in the barn at Flying Cloud on July 15. □



Photos by Larry Burke



Gedney Farmers' Market

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

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

What: Baked goods, meats, eggs, fresh flowers, vegetables, herbs, soups, honey, cheeses and more. Most products from members of our New Marlborough community. Stock up for the weekend!

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

On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!

The New Marlborough Library kicked-off its 2016 Summer Reading Club, "ON YOUR MARK, GET SET...READ!", with a hike to the historic Crosby-Robbins Mill led by New Marlborough Land Trust executive director Martha Bryan. The children learned about local history and the working mills of the late 1800s. Miss Debbie (aka Debbie O'Brien) introduced the children to healthy eating with KidZ Cooking with. The children helped prepare Smarty Pants Pasta Salad and ABC Noodle Soup. We not only exercised our minds but also our bodies with Pinto Bella Hoops and her Flow Arts Program. The children used hula hoops, juggled, tried their hands at using fans, Poi, yoga, and dancing with flags. Thanks to a grant from the New Marlborough Cultural Council, musician-storyteller Roger Tincknell performed for us. This festive program featuring sing-alongs and interactive songs and dances not only involved the children but even got us adults and our young adult helpers up and performing! We are so fortunate to live in a community with so many talented artists, and this year local artist Robin Tost joined us. Robin brought her Industrial Quilts to share with the children and also helped them create their own. The club ran Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with twenty children participating. It was a busy, crazy, and totally fun four days. Special thanks to all our volunteers and to Ormsbee Bus — we could not have done it without your help! □



photos by Debbie O'Brien



Left, Young Adult volunteers. Above, Pinto Bella Hoops, Cooking with Miss Debbie and the group at the Crosby-Robbins Mill



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Mirror Thief, by Martin Seay
Lily and the Octopus, by Steven Rowley
The Whale: A Love Story, by Mark Beauregard

Adult Nonfiction

The Bad-Ass Librarians from Timbuktu: And Their Race To Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts, by Joshua Hammer
New Shade Garden: Creating a Lush Oasis in the Age of Climate Change, by Ken Druse
The Whole Grains Cookbook, by Robin Asbell
Meathead: The Science of Great Barbecue and Grilling, by Meathead Goldwyn
The Complete Vegetarian Cookbook, by America's Test Kitchen
Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City, by Matthew Desmond

Children's Fiction

Shadow Magic, by Joshua Khan
Alamo All-Stars, by Nathan Hale
Sophie's Squash Go to School, by Pat Zietlow Miller
On the Farm, at the Market, by G. Brian Karas
The Secret Subway, by Shana Corey
The Not So Quiet Library, by Zachariah Chora

Children's Nonfiction

Smithsonian Maker Lab: 28 Super Cool Projects: Build, Invent, Create, Discover, by Smithsonian Enterprises
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Audio Books

LaRose, by Louise Erdrich
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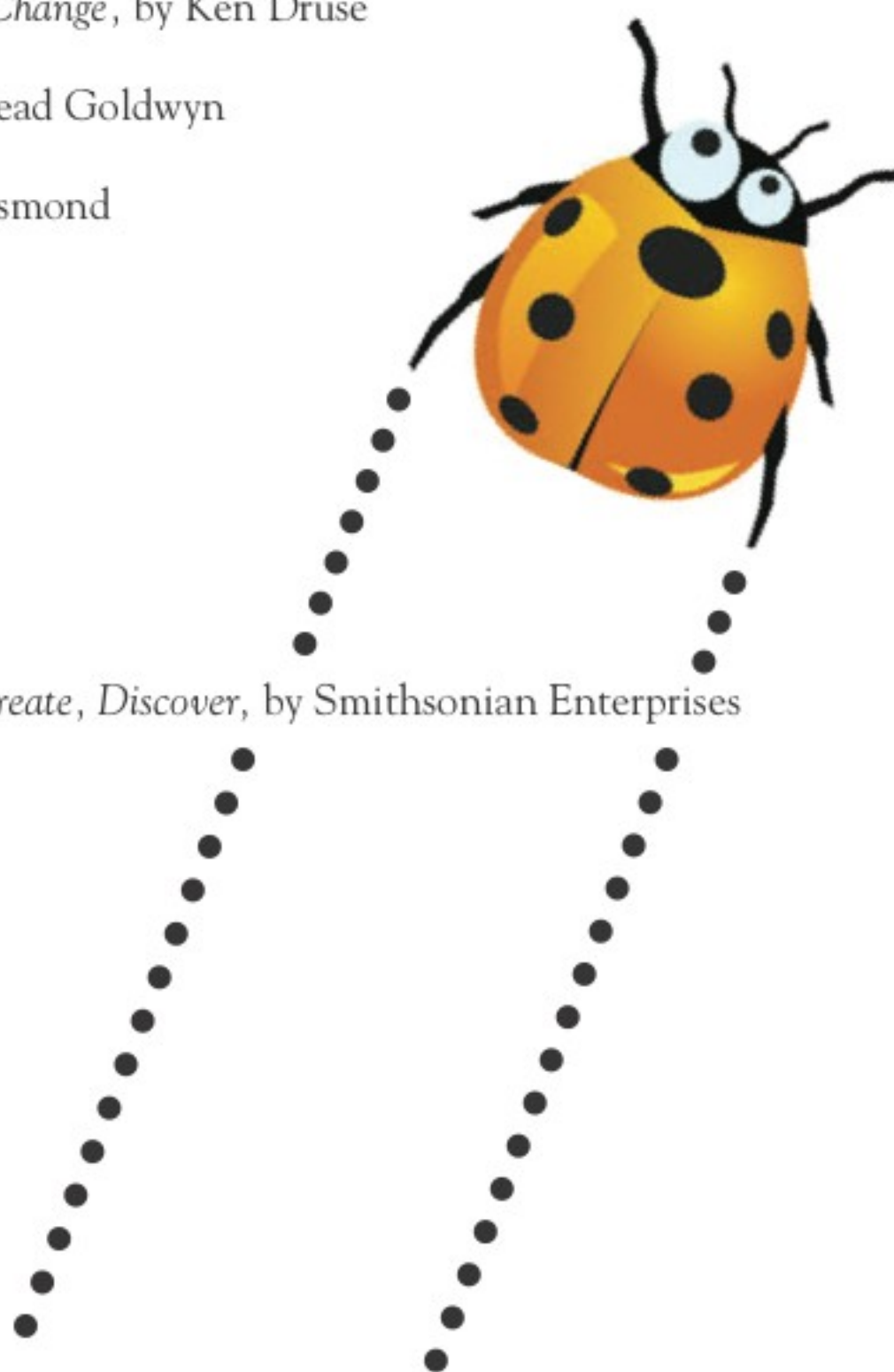
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<i>My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2</i>	<i>Miles Ahead</i>
<i>Hello, My Name Is Doris</i>	



Library Summer Hours

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



The New Marlborough Library Film Series continues August 23 with: **Red Army**

Red Army is an inspiring true story about the Cold War played out on the ice rink, and a man who stood up to a powerful system, paving the way for generations of Russians. From Oscar-nominated and Emmy award-winning filmmakers, *Red Army* examines the most successful dynasty in sports history: the Red Army hockey team. Told from the perspective of its captain Slava Fetisov, the story portrays his transformation from national hero to political enemy. With the demise of Communism came the end of the Cold War, as Soviet players began joining the National Hockey League. The film explores how sport mirrors social and cultural movements in Cold War Russia.

Refreshments at 7:30 pm - screening at 8:00 pm. Seating is limited; if you plan to attend please R.S.V.P. to newmarlborough@gmail.com or 229-6668

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

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

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

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Kenzie Fields, David Lowman, Joe Poindexter,
Jodi Rothe, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro,
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Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger,
Mary Richie Smith, Tara White. Index: Donna Weaver

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

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The next issue will be dated September 2016.

All copy must be submitted no later than August 17.
For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
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- ♦ **Project Bee** meets on the last Saturday of every month from 10:30 until noon at the New Marlborough Library in Mill River. See www.projectbeeline.org or Project Bee on Facebook.
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- ♦ **Woodruff Mountain Landscaping:** Excavation and landscape contracting, all forms of stone work and masonry, and outdoor services, including lawn mowing and yard work. 413-229-2919 woodruffmountain@aol.com

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