



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

NEW MARLBORO PRESERVE OPENS

By Ian Devine and Martha Bryan

The New Marlboro Preserve is the town's rediscovered gem. Though generations of kids played there, it was largely forgotten until the New Marlborough Land Trust acquired it and opened a new hiking trail for the community. With more than 200 people chipping in to purchase the 114 acre parcel across the road from the former Kolburne School, ours is clearly a community that wants to preserve treasured lands for future generations.

Teams of volunteers began to plan, clear, and map the new 1.3-mile loop trail during the winter. Resident Ron Brecher volunteered his expertise to design a route that features the dramatic resources of the landscape, namely the gorge along Willow Creek and the Umpachene River. The Greenagers organization provided muscle to clear fallen trees and create a stream crossing. Resident Peter Tiso offered his cartographic



photo by Larry Burke

continued on page 2 Hikers at the "Feast" enjoy their lunch stop along the trail.

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photos by Martha Bryan

Left: Community volunteers met weekly this spring and early summer to help build the new loop trail. Right: Greenagers offered their young energy and muscle to do some of the heavy trail work.

New Marlboro Preserve, continued



photo by Martha Bryan



photo by Larry Burke

Left: Another group of volunteers toast their hard work after raking the new trail clean of debris. Right: Ian Devine, Land Trust Board President, welcomes over 100 visitors to the "Hike-able Feast" under the trail banner that thanks all those who made the Preserve a reality.

skills to produce a useful and beautiful map of the trail. In six months and with lots of community participation, the first trail at the Preserve is ready for all to enjoy.

A "Hike-able Feast" celebration opened the new trail on July 16. The festivities paired two of New Marlborough's strengths – a network of pristine trails and delicious local food. The "feast" featured delicacies from Gedney Farm and The Flour Bin, preparing local produce from The

Farm New Marlborough, Berkshire Bounty Farm, Mill River Farm, and Rawson Brook Farm.

Hikers start the trail by walking beneath an eight-foot banner bearing the names of the more than 200 people, businesses, and organizations that made it happen.

The Preserve can be accessed free of charge at the intersection of Routes 183 and 57. A trail map is available at www.nmlandtrust.org. □

BROADBAND UPDATE

It Doesn't Look Good

by Barry R. Shapiro

New Marlborough and Frontier Communications began their courtship in earnest on March 13, when the Board of Selectmen announced that they were going to negotiate a deal with Frontier to bring high speed internet to the Town. The Board also announced that negotiations with other potential partners would not take place until a transaction with Frontier was either approved or turned away, although "all options remain open."

Now, however, almost five months later, it appears that New Marlborough may be left standing at the altar.

Selectman Nat Yohalem advises that although the time frame to negotiate a deal with Frontier Communications to bring broadband to town has been extended to July 31 (after being extended previously from May 7 to June 7 and then from June 7 to June 30), there have to his knowledge been no substantive discussions at all with Frontier since the deadline was extended at the end of June. "If we don't at least have a handshake with them by the new July 31 deadline, I would consider it dead, and we should move on," said a very concerned Mr. Yohalem. "The state has said that they would work out the basic terms with Frontier, and then we could finish things up, but nothing has to my knowledge happened."

Alice Boyd, a selectman in Sandisfield, tells a slightly different, more optimistic story. Ms. Boyd is the lead negotiator for the three-town group which has been working together to bring broadband to their communities. (The three towns are New Marlborough, Sandisfield and Tolland; Monterey was part of the group but has dropped out and is apparently going with another provider, Fiber Connect.) Ms. Boyd said, "Things are moving forward, and I am confident that we will meet with Frontier at the end of the month and hope to have an announcement after the meeting. There have not been any meetings with them since the deadline was extended due to vacation schedules."

This lack of progress over almost five months is contrasted with dramatic progress in nearby towns, many of which are moving forward with their broadband projects.

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) recently announced that it will provide Charter Communications with a grant of \$4,420,000 toward the cost of constructing "state-of-the-art" broadband networks in the towns of Egremont, Hancock, Peru, Princeton and Tyringham. Once completed, Charter's networks will

deliver the company's full suite of Spectrum™ TV, internet, and voice services to residents and businesses in each town, including the base broadband speed of up to 60 Megabits per second (Mbps).

Charter will provide a minimum coverage level of at least 96 percent of premises in these five currently unserved towns. The funding is contingent on each town negotiating and signing a cable television license agreement with Charter. MBI will cover 100 percent of the public costs of wiring the towns, relieving the towns of the need for municipal borrowing. Charter has committed to completing the project within one year following the issuance of all necessary permits and authorizations, including receipt of pole attachment rights from the local utilities.

This is the second award made to Charter under the MBI Last Mile program, following the August 2016 award to support construction of broadband networks in the unserved towns of Hinsdale, Lanesborough, and West Stockbridge. That project is scheduled for completion in early 2018.

Charter, which is the second largest cable provider in the United States, has not expressed any interest in wiring New Marlborough or the other two towns in the negotiating group and did not submit a bid in response to either MBI's request for proposals or that issued jointly by New Marlborough, Monterey, Tolland, and Sandisfield.

Other MBI grants made in the past not involving Charter were for the towns of Mount Washington, Alford, Otis, and Warwick.

If Frontier does indeed abandon New Marlborough, despite Frontier's expression last month that they were interested in moving forward and Ms. Boyd's seeming optimism that something would be announced by the end of July, Mr. Yohalem agrees that the Town will need to start over and seek other alternatives. As of now, those alternatives include looking at other entities that have expressed an interest in working with the town, i.e., Matrix Design Group, Westfield Gas and Electric, and WiredWest. Fiber Connect, which has not submitted a bid to the town, may also be interested. None of these entities, other than Fiber Connect, would build the network (the Town would have to build and own it), and none has as of this writing been approved by MBI to receive state funding.

"The Town should not consider any company if we are unable to get state funding," said Mr. Yohalem. "Building a network without state support will cost us an extra \$1.7 million, which is the amount we believe they will allocate toward the build-out."

Fiber Connect may, however, be on the verge of getting some state funds. "The state is apparently taking another look at Fiber Connect," said Mr. Yohalem. "The problem with that company is that they would wire only seventy percent of the town and that's not fair to those who don't

get wired. They also charge \$1,000 to install each home and then \$100 per month with a three-year commitment. This could change if state money is made available but that's not certain."

All of these alternatives (other than Fiber Connect) require that the town first borrow the money to build the network and then own it, something which Mr. Yohalem opposes. "One thing I don't want to do is own this thing. Every time the technology changes or a tree falls on a wire, it would be our responsibility."

Some New Marlborough residents are not pleased with the lack of progress or the Board's approach.

"I'm frustrated and have long been upset with the leadership in town," said resident Tim Newman, who is also the Town's delegate to WiredWest. "Leadership has been so single-minded that Frontier is the right thing for the Town that they haven't pursued other options while waiting for Frontier. Conversations should have been held with these other entities instead of only pursuing Frontier. And remember that Frontier is a damaged company with financial issues, so why are we dealing with them? We should have other options. If the Town builds and owns the network, it would have other options."

Resident David Travis said, "I'm quite frustrated. I don't understand why we seem locked in to negotiations with a failing company and are not considering owning the network and negotiating with an entity which could operate it for us. I think we can handle that. We are clearly not one of Frontier's priorities."

So, as was the case last month and the months before that, the residents of New Marlborough are waiting for the bride (or groom) to show up and, if she (or he) doesn't, to start looking for that special person (or company) to make their dreams of high speed bliss a reality. As of now, that dream may be more illusory than real as surrounding towns move forward and New Marlborough seems, at least at this moment, stuck in the anachronistic world of dial up and DSL.

Stay tuned. □

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN



June 19: With all three selectmen present, the Board gave its approval to an amendment to a petition from National Grid's Steven Hayward to change the location of one of the four proposed utility poles to the other side of Rhoades and Bailey Road. A month earlier he had come before the Board to seek approval for the location change, but the selectmen asked him to first notify all the abutters, which he said he has now done. The original petition to install the four poles on Rhoades and Bailey was approved by the Board back in January, but because of a wetlands issue raised by the Conservation Commission the location of pole number 62 had to be changed.

The Board also approved — for the second time — the transfer of a package store license for the Mill River General Store to new owner Jessica Holcomb from former owner Dave Herrick. The transfer had originally been approved by the Board in April, but because the Town had neglected to advertise it, as required by the state's Alcoholic Beverages Commission, the Board had to advertise and then re-vote it.

After approving the minutes from the June 1 meeting, the Board gave its approval to Police Chief Graham Frank to have the backup police cruiser repaired, following an accident earlier this month in which he backed into a tree on Downes Road while on a call. Damage was estimated at \$2,000 by Precision Autocraft in Great Barrington. It was the Board's directive that he can either pay for the repair out of his budget, or he can go back to the Finance Committee to make another request for money from the reserve fund. What the Board did not permit him to do was file a claim on the Town's insurance policy and risk having the rate go up.

Last week the Board awarded a contract to CSI Concrete Systems for the manufacture and delivery of a large concrete culvert to be installed near the north end of Clayton Mill River Road as part of the \$1 million MassWorks reconstruction project. However, it now turns out, according to Town Administrator Mari Enoch, the culvert needs to be installed by a crane, the cost of which will fit within the MassWorks budget. But the issue with the crane, she said, is that it cannot work near live electrical wires. Sometimes the power company is willing to shut off power to the area for a short period of time, she explained, but in other cases it may insist that poles and wires have to be moved, which would add both cost and time to the project. Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring is checking with National Grid, and if the utility is willing to shut off the power,

he'd like to go ahead with the CSI contract. If, on the other hand, it's not, he's indicated it would make more sense to issue another bid package for a culvert that doesn't require a crane. In addition, Ms. Enoch said it may be necessary at this point to apply for an extension to the MassWorks grant because of the time it could take to work all this out.

The Board then began its annual review and approval of Town officers and elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The Board also discussed people who have indicated an interest in joining a Town committee or board. So far four people have applied for openings on the Cultural Council, three for the position of town constable, and two are vying for an open seat on the Finance Committee.

There was a minor dustup resulting in a twenty-minute back and forth between Selectman Nat Yohalem and Finance Committee Chairman Mark Carson regarding the committee's recommendation of John Pshenishny over Richard Long to fill a Finance Committee vacancy, with Mr. Yohalem expressing concern that the committee did not consider the two candidates on their merits, but instead chose not to consider Mr. Long because his application was submitted after the requested application date of June 7.

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"If the committee had looked at both applications and decided to recommend John [Pshenishny], I'd have no problem with that," Mr. Yohalem stated. "I'd follow their recommendation because I want them to be comfortable with the members they've recommended. My problem is they didn't do that," and he asked Mr. Carson if he'd be willing to call the committee back into session one last time before the end of the fiscal year to consider both candidates. This, Mr. Carson clearly did not want to do. Before he could go any further, Mr. Yohalem backed off, saying "I'm willing go along with the committee's decision. I don't want to drag this out and I don't want it to be a big controversy. I think it's wrong, but I'm willing to go along with it."

The final discussion of the evening concerned a fund of about \$4,000 set up by the Ormsbee family for the benefit of New Marlborough Central School. According to Ms. Enoch, the family has now decided the money should be used to fix the backstop on the school playground, and the Board agreed the donation should go to the school district to oversee the repair.

June 26: With all three selectmen present the Board's first order of business was to **appoint Myles Pierce to the position of Tree Warden**. Mr. Pierce, who resides with his family on Sisson Hill Road in Mill River, has extensive tree experience, having worked for Haupt Tree Co. for the past eleven years. His appointment runs until Town elections next May. The position carries with it a \$1,000 stipend.

The Board approved minutes from the June 5, June 12 and June 19 meetings and then reviewed the Town's sign policy, adding a clause to cover signage for local Town elections. The new clause, unanimously adopted by the Board, specifies that town election signs may be erected on town property two weeks prior to election day, but

must be removed within five days of the election.

Returning to the annual review and approval of Town officers and elected officials, **the Board reappointed all current office holders for the fiscal year beginning July 1.** Ned Wilson asked not to be reappointed to the Conservation Commission, and John Miller to the Agricultural Commission. The Board has not yet heard back from either Dan Litchfield of the Board of Appeals or Ed Deming, a part-time police officer, regarding their reappointment. The Board also did not hear back from deputy emergency management director Mike Britton, and appointed Bobby Litchfield to the position instead. All appointments are for one-year terms with the exception of the Cultural Council, whose members serve three-year terms.

Later in the meeting, the Board also appointed two people to unexpired elected positions. They are Dave Herrick, who was appointed Town Constable, and John Pshenishny who was named to the Finance Committee, the terms for both of which run until Town elections in May. There were no letters of interest to fill a vacancy on the Planning Board.

The selectman also clarified the deadline policy for applying for a Town position. This was in response to a refusal by Finance Committee Chairman Mark Carson last week to reconsider an application from Richard Long because his letter of interest was submitted after the June 7 requested reply date. **The new policy, as outlined by Mr. Yohalem, specifies that going forward all applications for appointed or elected Town positions shall be accepted up until the time of the actual appointment.**

For his broadband update Mr. Yohalem began by reading a prepared statement that said, "Frontier Communications has approached the three towns with an updated offer that incorporates the state along with our

The deadline for contract negotiations with Frontier has been extended to July 31 at the request of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

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three towns," referring to the MLP towns of New Marlborough, Sandisfield, and Tolland. The statement went on to say that "the Chairman of MBI has spoken with Frontier, as has Bill Ennen, who is Governor Baker's 'Last Mile Liaison,' and that MBI and Mr. Ennen continue to actively support the towns in their negotiations." He also noted **the three MLP towns have been asked to extend the contract deadline for an additional 31 days until the end of July in an attempt to reach an agreement with Frontier.** "In other words," Mr. Yohalem said looking up from the prepared statement, "there's a new offer on the table." But in response to a question from the floor, he said he's not at liberty at this point to disclose what the new terms are. The Board agreed to meet briefly on Friday morning in its role as the Town's MLP Board to vote on what would be the third extension of the contract deadline.

In a later discussion it was agreed that Friday's meeting would be a joint meeting of the MLP Board and a regular Board of Selectmen meeting to also review a letter from the Board to the Town's voters explaining the need for the \$95,000 override, to be voted on at a special Town election July 31.

Under town administrator updates, Ms. Enoch asked for the Board's approval of a network support agreement for the Town's computers with Network Engineering and Security LLC of Beckett. The Town's previous support person, Art Dellea, has informed the Board he can no longer do it. Ms. Enoch said the Beckett firm's fee will be \$3,600 a year for supporting the town hall, library, and highway department computers. The Board authorized her to sign the agreement.

June 30: In a ten-minute meeting on Friday morning, the Board, acting in its role as the MLP Board, voted to extend the broadband contract negotiating deadline with Frontier to July 31, as requested by the state. Then,

reverting to their role as selectmen, the Board reviewed and approved a letter to the Town's voters explaining the need for the \$95,000 override.

July 7: At an abbreviated meeting on Monday morning, the Board, with all three selectmen present, reappointed Ed Deming to the Police Department as a part-time officer. That was followed by an update from Selectman Yohalem on his latest shared services meeting, where he discussed the possible sharing of a conservation agent with Sheffield, Sandisfield, and Richmond. There was also a discussion about the possible hiring and sharing of a human resources manager.

July 17: With Chairman White and Selectman Shalaby present and Selectman Yohalem conferencing in by phone, the Board met with Police Chief Graham Frank to discuss the **possibility of providing full police coverage from 8:00 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.** He had proposed this earlier in the year as part of his FY 18 budget, but it didn't survive the budget process. Now he was back proposing it again, citing call statistics he hoped would persuade the selectmen to reconsider.

He said the department received 644 calls for service in the 198 days since January 1, of which 249 occurred during the 4:00 p.m. to midnight time period, with another forty calls received after midnight. Currently the department provides coverage in the evenings from 4:00 p.m. to midnight Thursday through Saturday only and daytime coverage from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. seven days a week. State police handle calls the rest of the time. He said there was one call a month ago that neither he nor the state police could respond to. "So there was no coverage, and that concerns me," he said. He said he's also seeing increased activity involving mental health issues, substance abuse, and motor vehicle accidents, and

The cost of a crane to install a culvert on Clayton Mill River Road is covered by the MassWorks grant, but requires National Grid to shutoff power to the area for a short time.

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said “those are at times when we don’t have coverage.

“So I think we need to sit down and figure out how we can get an extra thirty-two hours of coverage,” he said. “I’m not saying this is New York City or anything, our call volume’s not that high, but things do happen, and I think the town should be covered.”

Mr. Yohalem estimated the thirty-two extra hours would cost the town roughly \$40,000 a year, “which we don’t have in the budget. It’s really a money issue,” he said, “and even if we totally agree and grant the request, it would require approval by the voters at a special town meeting.”

Instead, the Board asked Chief Frank to collect more data and to come back in September with additional call volume statistics broken down by time period in a more granular fashion. As Ms. White noted, “we’re in the middle of the summer right now when more things are happening. So, can you bring us back figures in a couple of months so we can see how things have changed? I think that’s a first step, and that way we can see what the trend is.”

Mr. Yohalem also asked him to attend his next shared services meeting set for September 7, where one of the topics will be the possible sharing of police services, and suggested he take another look at his budget to see if he can move money around to augment his shifts.

The Board held a utility pole hearing with National Grid’s Lisa Jasinski. National Grid, according to Ms. Jasinski, is seeking Board approval to install a new pole at the intersection of Route 57 and Steepletop Road near the border with Sandisfield. She said there’s an existing line of poles going through the woods that provides power to the houses on Steepletop, but “it’s in pretty bad shape and very hard to access,” she explained. So what the utility would like to do instead is install a single pole at the Steepletop intersection to pick up

power from the existing poles coming up Route 57 and then transfer it underground to the poles on Steepletop Road. As there were no abutters present, the Board gave its approval to the petition.

After voting to approve a one-day beer and wine permit for the Fire Company’s annual Pig Roast dinner on Saturday, August 19, the Board met with Nina Pixley of Barnbrook Realty regarding a special permit for a landlocked parcel of land off East Hill Road, across from Windemere Estates. She said the 1.3-acre parcel is owned by Alexander White of Brooklyn, New York, who’s interesting in selling it and that she has interested buyers. However, they don’t want to put an offer in on the land until they know

they can build on it.

She said while there’s no frontage, there is an easement in the deed, along with a road maintenance agreement, which she thought could be used to provide access to East Hill Road, and she is asking the Board if it would consider approving a special permit to build on the property.

However, according to an email advisory from Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard, a special permit in this case is “not appropriate, as there is nothing in our zoning bylaw that allows for a special permit to build on property without frontage.” Instead, he suggests seeking a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals or going before the Planning Board for a subdivision. He also counseled the buyer or seller to hire their own counsel because “without frontage, it’s a tough road, no pun intended.”

The Board then met with Joshua Seitz, who indicated he’s found another parcel of land that he deems suitable for the development project in which he’d lease out facilities to marijuana growers, processors, and associated suppliers, but he wants the Board’s

“I’m not saying that this is New York City or anything, ... but things do happen, and I think the town should be covered.”

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blessing before executing a purchase agreement. He'd previously come before the Board back in April about purchasing the Kolburne School campus for the same purpose, but the property was acquired instead by New Marlborough's Tom Brazie to expand his farming activities in the Town. (See cover story "The Once and Future Farm" in the July issue of the NM5VN.)

This time around Mr. Seitz is not identifying the property he's seeking, only to say that it's between 50 and 100 acres, and it's not visible from the road. But he said his plans are basically the same as they would have been for Kolburne School (See Board of Selectmen report in the May issue of the NM5VN), and he emphasized once again that initially at least the facility would be producing product for the medical market only, and there would be no retail operations on the site. He said he would have various supporting businesses as tenants, many of whom, he said, have already provided him with letters of intent. These include a restaurant, a grower supply company, a laboratory for testing product and possibly a credit union branch, plus, of course, growers and processors. He spoke glowingly, as he did last time, of the benefits the operation would confer on the Town including increased tax revenues and employment opportunities for residents.

When he was done, the Board said the next step would be for him to fill out the necessary paperwork and request a special permit hearing, and they told him he would have to disclose the location of the property so abutters could be notified and advised him that it would be a public hearing. Earlier in the discussion, he'd asked about the possibility of a closed hearing.

The Board met with the Board of Assessors to discuss tax-exempt land and so-called chapter land that is taxed at a reduced rate to see whether there's anything the town can do to recover some of the "lost" revenue. As Ms. White indicated at an earlier meeting, "We need to take a hard look at all of that. Our revenue is our tax base, and it's killing us."

As Board of Assessors Chairman Marsha Pshenishny explained, "chapter land is pretty much set in the way it's valued. We don't have much leeway on anything that's chapter land. As long as people apply for it and they meet the requirements, we have no alternative except to accept the application." The state sets the value on agricultural land, she said, while owners of forestry chapter land pay only 5 percent of the assessed value, and open space and recreational land is taxed at 25 percent of its assessed valuation. Tax exempt land, as the name implies, isn't taxed at all, she said, and includes land owned by non-profits such as schools, churches, and charities, plus town, state, and federal land.

The assessors estimate the lost value of chapter land in town at \$32 million, while tax-exempt land represents another \$22 million in valuation. Taken together at the current tax rate of \$9.80 per \$1,000 that means some \$500,000 a year in tax revenue is "lost" to the town.

In the discussion that followed Ms. Shalaby asked the assessors to go back fifteen years and examine the data "to see what the trends are, what is the true effect on the town in terms of land going into chapter and out of it, if that ever happens, and what's the value of that land." She also asked them to determine how much land over time is in exempt status. "We need to establish that there is a problem, what exactly the problem is, and then from there determine what we want to do about it," she said, "because it's complicated." The assessors agreed to go back and do the research.

In other matters, the Board approved Town Administrator Enoch's contract for FY18 and made three town officer appointments: Dan Litchfield to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Marsha Harvey to the Council on Aging, and Freddy Friedman to the Conservation Commission. □

Peter Schuyten

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VIEW FROM THE BOARD

A new (fiscal) year has begun in New Marlborough. We look forward to this year in which we will continue several significant efforts in the areas of financial controls, broadband, road improvements, and shared services. By way of the *5 Village News*, Board meetings, and Annual Town Meeting, most residents are aware of the activities related to broadband, shared services, and road improvements. Though financial controls are rarely discussed publicly, they are the most important effort within Town Hall.

At this time of activity that spans both Fiscal Year 2017 and Fiscal Year 2018, our town administrator, Mari Enoch, and I met with the core of our financial team to discuss closing the books on FY17 and setting goals for FY18. This core consists of our accountant, Tara White, the treasurer, Marilyn Fracasso, and the tax collector, Gina Campbell. With a stable and capable team in place, it was a promising meeting. We expect that an audit of 2017 will return an opinion of much improvement in our financial controls. We believe there will be further improvements to make, and the team is committed to the work.

Renewed undertakings this year are likely to be further

development of financial plans, forecasts, and policies. Along with our highway superintendent, Chuck Loring, and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, we will seek viable options for addressing the needed repair of Route 57. So far, the gap between what is viable and what is desirable has been too large. Town Hall remains in need of accessibility upgrades. We will re-explore options, seeking those that are affordable and meet state procurement law. Shared services discussions will begin with a focus on sharing professional resources and supporting emergency services.

Beyond New Marlborough but significant to all of us, is the work of the Berkshire County Education Task Force. This group has been assembled to examine possibilities of school district configurations in Berkshire County that can address the issue of declining school population, while controlling cost and delivering quality education. Recently, the task force has heard the recommendations of a consulting firm. These recommendations have been covered in the county-wide newspapers and are worth reading. Please follow and share with fellow residents.

As always, your input is needed and appreciated. Please contact us, at any time, for discussion. □

Michele Shalaby

NEW MARLBOROUGH CULTURAL COUNCIL

Grant Application Period Approaches

Calling all artists and nonprofit organizations, both cultural, and educational! Beginning September 1, the New Marlborough Cultural Council will be accepting grants for projects that benefit our community. This year, all proposals must be submitted on line by the October 16 deadline. Complete information including local priorities, the amount of funding available, and instructions and forms for the proposals will be available beginning September 1 on the Massachusetts Cultural Council website at <http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/>

[programs/lccgrants.asp](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/programs/lccgrants.asp). This information will also be published in the September issue of the *5 Village News*.

While PBS has the *Antiques Road Show*, the Cultural Council has the Berkshires' own Charlie Flint, who will be in his tent on Burritt Day. Bring your small antiques or pictures of your large ones, and Charlie will provide an appraisal for a modest fee (which directly benefits the Council's grant program). That family heirloom could be a valuable treasure! Find out on the New Marlborough Village Green on August 19 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. □

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THE YORK LAKE BLUES

The talk of the town, or at least the talk of Maggie's List through the first half of July, has been the diminished status of York Lake as a recreational site. Disappointment over the state's decision to curtail funding for site management of York Lake has also sparked almost non-stop calls to Representative William Pignatelli, according to his office manager in Lenox. Speaking by phone to the NM5VN, "Smitty" Pignatelli said that a couple of factors have played into the cutbacks that have affected a number of locations overseen by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), but it all essentially comes down to the statewide budget. "We are in a struggle financially, and it's difficult to see the path forward, particularly with revenues being so flat in the current fiscal year." Representative Pignatelli added that the situation within the DCR was exacerbated last year by a large number of employees, seeing the writing on the wall, choosing to take early retirement. Replacements for these employees have not yet been found, or aren't being sought, given the poor fiscal picture.

Residents of New Marlborough who have been enjoying the peace and beauty of York Lake's swimming area for years or decades have not hesitated in voicing their concern over the condition of the beach area and the near-lack of sanitary facilities. (There is a portable outhouse, but the bathhouse is shuttered.) Their voices have been heard through Maggie's List, of course, but also through letters to the editors of local newspapers and calls to our elected officials. At least one of our townspeople, Ben Harms, took it upon himself to drive over to Benedict Pond in Monterey's Beartown State Forest to have a chat (or speak truth to power) with the DCR employees there, this after he had been told by his wife Lucy Bardo that the lawn bordering the beach at

York Lake had not been cut. At Ben's gentle insistence, or dogged prodding as the case may have been, one of the employees accepted the notion that he could drive over to York Lake to mow the grass. And this he did, the very next day. Alec Gillman, a DCR official (see below), said that it was his understanding that the Benedict Pond crew would attend to the mowing at York Lake on a bi-weekly basis for the remainder of the summer.

Asked if there were any steps that the Town, or individuals within New Marlborough, could take to help maintain decent conditions at the lake, Representative Pignatelli suggested that the Town try to partner with a group such as the Boy Scouts, or even add mowing and cleanup to the list of activities that senior citizens in town can do toward earning a tax abatement. As for security measures, he recommended that the Board of Selectmen contact the State Police barracks in Lee to see if they might make it a habit to swing by York Lake, or to ask the same of the New Marlborough police.

When the Board of Selectmen was asked for its reaction to the situation, Chairman Tara White responded, "The Board of Selectmen was not notified that the York Lake area was not going to be maintained this year. We are all learning about it at the same time all of the rest of the Town is. The DCR may have students that could perform the work as part of the student conservation association."

Despite the curtailment of services, York Lake remains one of the finest spots in town for a dip, a paddle, a little fishing, or a cookout, and, regardless of the odd water snake or leech, should continue as a preferred destination for all of us. □

Larry Burke

THE CCC IN SOUTH COUNTY

The CCC in South County: Life in a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was good. As described by Alec Gillman (right), a communications specialist with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the men — eighteen-to-twenty-five years old, single, and among the 25 percent of the nation that was unemployed in the early 1930s — got clothing, three meals, and \$1 a day, and gained an average of twelve pounds during their tour of duty. Mr. Gillman, in a July First Friday program sponsored by the New Marlborough Historical Society, described the work of the 200 men (fifty to a barracks) who built York Lake and planted a stand of Norway spruce along Route 183. Talk about presidential effectiveness: the program, which eventually employed 260,000 men nationwide, was started within a month of the first inauguration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The next First Friday program, at the Meeting House gallery August 4 at 7:30 p.m., will be on the Knox Trail and its role in the Revolutionary War.

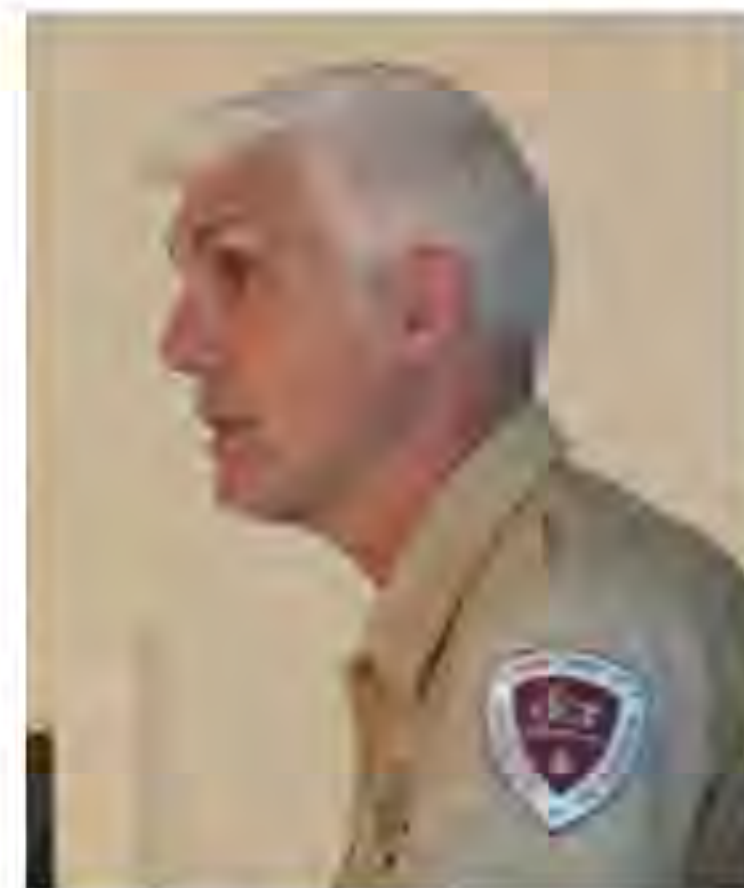


photo by Joe Ponderer

Wanted, Clayworks info: The New Marlborough Historical Society is preparing a program on the Clayton Clay Works, to be presented on September 1 as part of the Society's "First Fridays" series. To that end, members are seeking information, artifacts, and stories related to the clay works, and hope that you will share your knowledge. Please contact Claudette Callahan at 229-7771, or email her at claudettecallahan@hotmail.com. □

THE 2017 ELIHU BURRITT AWARD

by Mary Richie Smith

In the middle of Southfield Village there has stood, since 1794, a beautiful white structure, the Congregational Church. With its upward stretching side windows, and the structural lines above the entrance door widening the higher they go, the church seems to be reaching, to be eagerly aspiring – but for what? Into the slanting roof is set a sturdy box of a base, on which is set the cupola – a sort of cylinder with slats for viewing all around, and set into that, the steep pointed cone of the spire itself, reaching up and up. “Don't you see,” the church seems to be saying, “I so aspire. I know I could be so much more. If only someone had any vision.”

Until. A few years ago, Robert Olsen arrived. Who took in its beauty, saw what it could become. Yes, a spiritual center, but also a cultural and aesthetic center, and soon, as well, a social center. He has made the church a creative focus not only of Southfield village but all of New Marlborough.

To begin with, and most noticeably, he established the concert series. This has been the third season of Music at the Southfield Church. On five successive Saturday evenings, we have been treated to classical music in both solo and duo forms, a brass ensemble, bang-up bluegrass, and a program by Norfolk Music Festival fellows. The concerts are kept free so that anyone and everyone can and will come – those who are short of funds, children with little pocket money, and people who aren't sure whether or not they would like the music but will risk the time if not the cash. (A handsome basket by the door hints at the hope for voluntary donations.) The performers are usually young, local, and already marked for notability. And to sweeten the occasion, literally, Robert dishes up scoops of Southfield Store vanilla bean gelato on the lawn after the concert, to top off the evening's pleasure. The birds are swooping about with their own sonnet-making. The Berkshire sunset is arcing over the hills, over the church.

The church itself is part of the performance. The interior is simple and lofty. The evening light shimmers through the tall windows in harmonic streams, touching on the players, on those listening. The church is not just a place, it is a state of mind. And, a celebrated capacity of the mind is contemplation.

Five years ago, Robert began to lead his all-too-small congregation at Sunday service, playing his violin. There are invocations and readings and hymns, but



Robert Olsen photo by Larry Burke

the significance of the service lies in meditation. A passage of scripture is read. The listeners focus on the sense of the words. Each person hearing what seems to speak from within. Contemplation, a very private matter, is surely eased and enhanced by the beautiful setting.

But Robert knows people need more than silent communing. They need a sense of community, of being part of a gathering. To help make this happen he is seeing to having a proper kitchen put into the adjacent church hall, with a working stove, so that people can cook there, share meals, have

celebrations, hang out. People, he feels, need to gather together more, to sit down and listen to one another.

So it is that the Southfield Church, thanks to Robert Olsen's active envisioning, is becoming the creative center of the village, on all these various levels. Accordingly, Robert Olsen is this year's recipient of the Elihu Burritt Award.

But who is this Robert Olsen? Where did he come from and how did he find us?

He was born in Kansas City, one of six children. Starting violin in the fourth grade led to his having a double major – musical education and theatrical education – at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas. Realizing he would rather perform than teach, he enjoyed some experience in Kansas City dinner theater. Then he moved to New York City in 1986, where for a year and a half he performed in an off-Broadway musical, *Smoke on the Mountain*, about a gospel-singing family band (his fifteen moments of Warholian fame, he calls it).

During the twenty-two years he lived in the city, he worked a lot in real estate, where he could not find, for himself, a life's meaning. He had some knowledge of the Berkshires – he had been to Tanglewood – and was drawn by its cultural life. So he and his husband, Tom Masters, and their son Mickey decided to move to Southfield village. When Robert saw the opportunity of becoming director of operations at Volunteers in Medicine (a voluntary organization which provides free health care for people of the region with little or no health insurance) he was quick to accept.

He was a newcomer here, but sometimes it takes a newcomer—a very exceptional one—to see what is waiting to be seen. He has put a new light on the historic church and in doing so added light to all our lives. □

UMPACHENE MEMORY



On June 28, friends and colleagues of Tara White and Edgar Zukauskas gathered at Umpachene Falls Park to present and dedicate a bench overlooking the river in memory of Edgar. The idea arose at Town Hall, and quickly took shape, spearheaded by Alvin Stalker and Sharon Fleck. The granite bench and engraving were supplied by Richard Atwood of A&M Memorials. The base for the concrete platform was dug by Alvin and Bob Twing, a member of the Umpachene Falls Park Commission with Edgar for many years. Funds for the project were quickly raised from local contributors: the Fire Department, Town Hall employees, the Mill River General Store and other local residents.

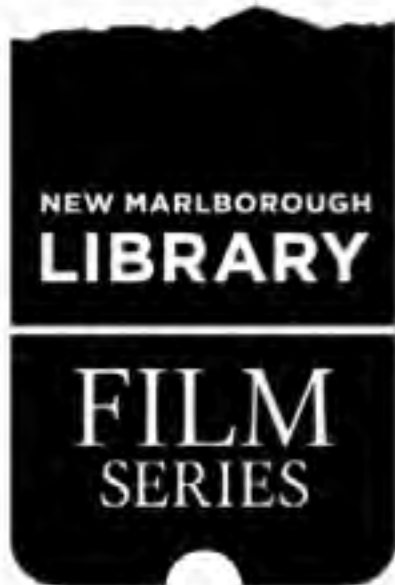
In making the presentation Sharon noted that Edgar was dedicated to having the park continue as a place of peace and beauty. Tara, obviously deeply touched by the gesture, said, "He loved this place so much, and this is such a beautiful memorial. You all have proven once again why this is such a wonderful community to live in. I have not been here since Edgar passed away, but your show of support encourages me to come back to the place we both loved, with our dog, Savior." She returned that same evening for the first time. □



photos by Sandra Walker

Tara at the dedication

New Marlborough Library Free Film Series



Tuesday, August 8, 7:30 p.m.

Frame By Frame

When the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, taking a photo was a crime. After the regime fell from power in 2001, a fledgling free press emerged, and a photography revolution was born. Now, as foreign troops and media withdraw, Afghanistan is left to stand on its own, and so are its journalists.



Set in a modern Afghanistan bursting with color and character, *Frame by Frame* follows four Afghan photojournalists as they navigate an emerging and dangerous media landscape reframing Afghanistan for the world, and for themselves. Through cinema vérité, intimate interviews, powerful photojournalism, and never-before-seen archival footage shot in secret during the Taliban regime, the film connects audiences with four humans in the pursuit of the truth. □



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SEASON FINALE

Local Talent Shines in a Show All Their Own

by Pam Stebbins

In recognition of the wealth of artistic talent in New Marlborough, the third and final show of the 2017 New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery season will showcase art work by nine local artists. There will be an opening reception with the artists on Friday, September 1, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting House.

The work of Erik Callahan, long-time resident of New Marlborough, clearly reflects his appreciation for the natural beauty and history of this region. Although he has traveled extensively and lived in other places, he returns to this area for the inspiration it gives him. Over the years, he has taken many photographs reflecting his love of landscape, stone, wood, and metal.

More recently, he has added another dimension to his art portfolio. Using his keen awareness and sharp eye, he has discovered an ability to visualize unusual combinations of materials. He scours antique markets and rummage sales to find interesting objects. He stores them in his shop, which is getting quite full. When embarking on a new project, Erik scans his varied inventory or sets out to find something else. Once he has selected the articles, he lays them out and moves things around like pieces of a puzzle until he gets the result he wants. All Erik's assemblages are done in one session lasting an average of an hour.

His recent discovery of Instagram (photo-sharing app) has reinvigorated his interest in photography. Using his iPhone, he can see an image, capture it immediately with his iPhone, post it on Instagram, and send



One of Erik Callahan's assemblages

Photo courtesy of Erik Callahan

it instantly to the whole world. He finds the quality of the photographs excellent and appreciates no longer having to lug lots of photography equipment around. He enjoys getting comments about his work and has had some interesting interactions with other photographers using this communication tool.

Southfield resident Andrew Zdziarski is an abstract painter whose work is psychological in nature and explores dreams, memories, notions, and anxieties as a source of freedom and self-expression. His process is very impulsive and done on recycled materials found abandoned on

construction sites where he works. What he calls his inner landscape informs and directs his painting. He gets audible cues as he works without any visual prompts from his surroundings. One notices several recurring objects in his paintings such as dots and barns. Growing up on a farm just west of Great Barrington might explain the barns, but dots are more challenging! Closure perhaps?

The New Marlborough Artists show can be seen from September 2 to October 8 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The other New Marlborough artists in the show are Lee Backer, Jane Burke, Sam Corbin, Ann Getsinger, Billy Kennedy, Diane Nerwen, and Lucinda Shmulsky.

The Meeting House Gallery, located on Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green, is sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association. □

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SMALL, YES, BUT SMART, TOO

Fairview Hospital Is Quietly Going High-Tech

by Sandra Fusco-Walker

Three years ago, my husband Scott discovered he was allergic to bee stings. It was a total shock, as years ago he raised honeybees and never had any reactions. But a hive of angry yellow jackets descended upon him one sunny July morning after he slammed shut the shed door. Within minutes he was on the ground in the throes of anaphylactic shock. Fortunately, our daughter had left some old Epi Pens at the house and between those and the help of our heroes from the New Marlborough Rescue Squad, he made it to Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington and recovered.

Prior to that day, we weren't familiar with Fairview Hospital, but over the last few years, we've had more experience, as our parents needed medical care during difficult times. I found I was continually surprised at the range of medical services and specializations offered by Fairview, all of which has only been enhanced with its 1988 consolidation with Berkshire Health Systems in Pittsfield.

According to Lauren Smith, director of community relations and development, the hospital is fully equipped to provide a wide variety of outpatient services, including the following:

- Mammography
- Nuclear imaging medicine
- Infusion therapy

- Cardiac rehabilitation
- Dialysis
- Endoscopy/Colonoscopy
- Wound Care/Hyperbaric Oxygen Medicine
- Counseling and community programs on diabetes, weight control, nutrition, and smoking cessation.

Not just for residents, these services are available to those who visit our area and need to continue ongoing medical treatments while away from home.

Fairview's dedicated Swing Bed Unit offers Medicare patients a transitional program following an acute hospital stay of three days or more. Patients can receive a wide range of sub-acute services, which will give them additional time to be ready to safely go home from the hospital.

As part of the Berkshire Health System, Fairview also connects patients with specialty care in the county and every healthcare provider treating you can easily access relevant medical records — especially helpful during an emergency when the immediate need to know about allergies, medications, and potential complications can be lifesaving.

Fairview has a small-town feeling, but it is increasingly capable of offering up-to-date, high-tech care. □

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August 26 Gossamer Trio

Gossamer Trio is the collaboration of New York Philharmonic Principal Harpist Nancy Allen, with internationally renowned flutist Carol Wincenc and emerging artist Claire Solomon, cello. They will be playing a program of Fauré, Villa-Lobos, Ravel, and Gaubert.

September 9 The Power of a Woman's Voice:

Tina Packer and Calliope Renaissance Band

A program of readings and music with Tina Packer, doyenne of the Shakespearean world, and the venerable Calliope Renaissance Band. This event will include English women's voices from 16th and 17th C. literature and complimentary music on replica period instruments. For over twenty-five years, Calliope has introduced audiences for to the music and instruments of the 13th through the 17th centuries.

September 16 Jay Ungar and Molly Mason

Jay and Molly draw their repertoire from a wide range of American musical styles: 19th-century classics, lively Appalachian, Cajun, and Celtic fiddle tunes along with their own songs, fiddle tunes, and orchestral compositions.

September 23 Kyra Xuerong Zhao

Pianist Kyra Xuerong Zhao performs pieces by Beethoven, Ligeti, and Debussy. Ms. Zhao has performed in prestige venues across the country and has won prizes in pianist competitions around the world.

October 7 Award-Winning Authors with Host Simon Winchester

Simon Winchester interviews guest **Roy Blount, Jr.**, humorist and prolific writer of prose, poetry, song and speech, with an approach to life and its foibles such as Mark Twain might have offered up.

Art Show in the Meeting House Gallery Out of Many, One: e pluribus unum through August 27

Receptions with the artists after the performances • Art Gallery shows through Oct. 8th

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION: www.newmarlborough.org

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UPCOMING: *Events Calendar for August and September*

August 5: White Elephant sale collection, the third collection day, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Rooney House on the New Marlborough Southfield Road opposite the former Kolburne School administration barn

August 5: The Knox Trail, and its role in the Revolutionary War, a First Friday program of the New Marlborough Historical Society, presented by Berkshire historian Bernie Drew; 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting House Gallery, free and open to the public, wine and cheese after the program

August 12: New Marlborough Village Cemetery Restoration; help clean and repair headstones in the town's oldest burying ground, just off New Marlborough Branch Road near the Meeting House; 10:00 a.m. to noon, light picnic lunch to follow

August 12: White Elephant sale collection, your last chance to cull those treasures that have been gathering dust in your attic, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Rooney House on the New Marlborough Southfield Road opposite the former Kolburne School administration barn

August 19: Elihu Burritt Day, the annual gathering of crafters, food sellers, classic cars, book sale, magician, fun run, white elephants, you name it, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the New Marlborough Village Green

August 19: Fire Department Pig Roast, a good opportunity to break bread — and a pork rib — with all your fellow townsmen, the firehouse in Southfield, 5:00 p.m. until the band goes home

August 26: The Gossamer Trio, with Carol Wincenc, flute, Nancy Allen, harp, and Claire Solomon, cello, playing Faure, Villa-Lobos, Ravel, and Gaubert; presented by Music and More, 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House on the New Marlborough Village Green; \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association, with a wine and cheese reception following the concert

September 1: The Village of Clayton, from its accession by New Marlborough to its heyday as a center of clay production; a First Friday program of the New Marlborough Historical Society, 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting House Gallery, free and open to the public, wine and cheese following the program

September 1: New Marlborough Artists, the 20th anniversary of the show of work by local artists at the Meeting House Gallery; opening 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with wine and hors d'oeuvres, and on view thereafter Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until October 8

September 9: New Marlborough Village Cemetery Restoration; help clean and repair headstones in the town's oldest burying ground, just off New Marlborough Branch Road near the Meeting House; 10:00 a.m. to noon, light picnic lunch to follow

September 9: The Power of a Woman's Voice, readings by Shakespearean actor Tina Packer accompanied by the Calliope Renaissance Band, playing the 16th and 17th century music of such composers as John Taverner, John Dowland, and Thomas Morley; presented by Music and More, 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House on the New Marlborough Village Green; \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association, with a wine and cheese reception following the concert

September 16: Jay Unger and Molly Mason, the fiddle and guitar duo that created the music for Ken Burns's documentary, *The Civil War*; presented by Music and More, 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House on the New Marlborough Village Green; \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association, with a wine and cheese reception following the concert

September 23: Pianist Kyra Xuerong Zhao, performing the music of Ligeti, Debussy, and Beethoven; presented by Music and More, 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House on the New Marlborough Village Green; \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association, with a wine and cheese reception following the concert

NEIGHBORS



Gwen Melvin passed away on June 1 at her home in New Marlborough at the age of eighty-seven. She was born and brought up in Chicago; following graduation from Northwestern University in 1951, she turned to pursuit of her real love, drawing, at the American Academy of Fine Arts in New York City.

She and her husband, Ron, raised two daughters, Mary and Catharine, in Toronto, Canada, and Chicago. Ron and Gwen came to New Marlborough in the early 1980s, and spent the rest of their lives here. Gwen's talent for drawing made her a frequent contributor to gallery shows in New Marlborough, the Berkshires, and Norfolk, Connecticut. Several of her friends offer their memories of Gwen.



photo by Lynn Ryan

Gwen adopted Fiona a week or two before this photo was taken last year. And yes, Fiona is now happily ensconced in her new home.

From Elizabeth Lombardi:


For many years, Gwen was a regular exhibitor in the Meeting House Gallery, showing distinctive, fine pencil drawings of still life subjects. We had shown together in the Sheffield Art League, and I know she also has shown in the art show held in connection with the Norfolk Music Festival. She worked steadily on her drawings despite increasing years and a move to a smaller house than the one she enjoyed with her husband before he died. She seemed to me both gentle and firm in a clear-eyed way. She will be missed!

From Ann Getsinger:

I knew Gwen as an artist, a friend, and as a long-time picture framing client. Many times I visited her home deep in the Southfield woods to deliver framing work or have a studio visit. Her art studio was alone at the top of a long, steep staircase, like a nest in a treetop, and where I'd see her latest works in progress. Her distinctive still life drawings were constructed in multiple layers, with an equal and intense attention given to both objects and atmosphere. She drew especially beautiful garlic, silver pitchers, onions – silvery things – with a very sensitive eye. Even though the drawings were small, it was a bit of a joke between us that they were never quite done, almost but not just yet! Other times we'd have a visit in her kitchen area, chatting while admiring her various cats. These cats, always rescued, would be treated with the utmost reverence, and they responded in kind, elegantly stretching out on counter-tops, posing on side tables, enjoying a free rein not given to the dogs. Gwen had a big heart and was always very warm, bright, and kind.

From Cale James:

I met Gwen about eight years ago when she hired me to walk her Cairn terrier, Harry. We quickly became good friends with many shared interests including our undying love of animals and nature. Nobody took better care of or loved their pets more than Gwen. She was also always ready to "talk tennis" with me, especially about Roger Federer who was our favorite.



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Gwen was always interested in what was going on in my life and never seemed to tire of my often long-winded stories. She was a beautiful, kind person, and I feel very privileged to say she was my friend. She will be greatly missed.

From **Abbe Shahl Steinglass**:

“Broken Promises” is the title of one of Gwen Melvin’s perfect pencil works on paper, a group of four eggs with their shells cracked in varying stages. We hang it in a quiet room near her larger “Still Life with Pottery and Bottles.” Peaceful, treasured works.

Over the years, I had asked whether Gwen could show me, another artist, how to do this. She said she would be happy to show me her techniques, but it took us many summers to find a good uninterrupted time. Last year, we found it. First, in her living room she warmed me up with tea and cookies. Then, having a disciple, a batch of pencils, and an unfinished work, she spent a session demonstrating how the works grow, and then moved us to the studio to review works from long before. One last treasured afternoon.

From **Lynn Ryan**:

When we meet someone who shares our joys, who knows when we are up or down, who shows they care and are so generous in so many ways, someone who never lets us down – this is who we can call a friend. This was my Gwen. I met Gwen and Ron Melvin thirty-two years ago when they became clients of mine. A deep friendship blossomed over the years and as life changed for them, my role evolved into being Gwen’s personal assistant as well as caregiver. I came to “work” every day with total pleasure, always looking forward to being with Gwen. She loved the arts and we enjoyed many concerts and museum outings. Gwen had a wealth of knowledge, and I learned so much. She was a true perfectionist, especially, when it came to her own work. I loved watching her draw. Her beloved pets and ALL creatures great and small were the center of her life along with her two daughters, Mary and Catharine, who are amazing women. She possessed grace and was a true “lady.” I miss her so much, and I’m thankful to her for her wonderful sense of humor, for accepting me, for loving me. I am grateful to have known someone who made it sooo hard to say “good-bye.”

And radically changing the subject, we have news from **Catherine Twing**:

Catherine grew up in Hartsville and graduated from Mount Everett High School in 2013. She then attended Castleton University in Castleton,

Vermont, graduating in May with a degree in communications, with a double concentration in journalism and public relations.

Catherine is currently working as a freelance curriculum writer for Skills21 in Litchfield, Connecticut. She is seeking full time work in marketing or media. And in her spare time, she created the charming essay for “Your Turn”, that appears in this issue on page 19.

Another happy event this month: **Scott and Sandra Walker** of New Marlborough happily announce the marriage of their daughter, **Shannon Henebry Walker** to **Christopher Jan Hyde** on July 8. The newlyweds, who met while attending the Executive MBA Wine Business program at Sonoma State University, will make their home in Napa, California, where Shannon is marketing manager of Free Flow Wines, and Christopher is general manager at Hyde Vineyards and director of viticulture at Hyde de Villaine Winery. □

Neighbors compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuuell@yahoo.com



photo by Sandra Walker

Shannon and Chris Hyde



photo by Jason Irish

Catherine Twing upon graduation in May

Thank You to Our Contributors!

Debra Bricker Balken; Janet Brown; Sue Connell; Ron and Mary Saunders; and Warner Friedman

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

Not much to report on this month, it seems. But **Don Beauchamp**, who keeps a close eye on the bird population in Clayton year-round, sent in this report: "On June 18, the first young birds starting coming to my feeders, including a **fledgling red-bellied woodpecker**, all gray at this point in its life. It likes grape jelly."

"On July 4, one of many **purple finches** came to the feeder, and also beginning in early July, a nice **great blue heron** began visiting the pond on Clayton Mill River Road."

Throughout June and July, many young birds showed up, including lots of **nuthatches** and **titmice**, **rose-breasted grosbeaks**, and **finches**. On July 17, I came across a nest with **four baby flycatchers**."

Don had one non-avian sighting last month: on July 16, "a very clean young **coyote** across the driveway."

BAT NEWS

As night descends and darkness envelopes the sky, we look above in hopes of seeing silent hunters flittering above. Bats, those miraculous flying mammals, once abundant in our area, have become exceedingly rare, due to the spread of a deadly fungal disease.

Throughout winter, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), roost in old buildings, attics, barns, or caves, where they hibernate. During this period, the bats are able to withstand temperatures as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius, allowing them to survive in the harsh climates of New England. However, White Nose Syndrome, a fungus that affects the muzzle of hibernating bats by creating a white mass of fungal growth on the nose, is killing cave-dwelling bats while they hibernate. The fungus consumes the body fat of the bats during hibernation, waking them early, and leading to deaths from frostbite or starvation. In New England, mortality rates of infected hibernating areas (hibernaculum) is between 90 and 100 percent.

Little is known about the mysterious fungal disease. First found in 2006 in Albany, New York, White Nose Syndrome has spread throughout the United States, killing over five million bats and decimating our local summer populations of little brown bat. As the big brown bat mostly hibernates in buildings – unlike the little brown bat which hibernates in caves – it has remained largely unaffected. Scientists and researchers are not certain how the syndrome is transferred, and while most believe that it passes from bat to bat, some believe it comes from insect or human contact. Scientists have not yet found a cure for White Nose Syndrome, although some successes have been achieved through a variety of strategies: by using bacteria commonly used to disrupt fungal infections in bananas; by constructing and cleaning man-made hibernaculum such as mines; and by separating and tracking bat populations. Despite these efforts, populations continue to fall throughout the United States.

Bats are essential to our ecosystem. Some species help pollinate our fruit trees and flowers, and most help keep the insect population under control, consuming up to 1,000 mosquitoes per hour. If you see a colony (that is, ten or more) fluttering out of your attic or barn on a summer evening, report your sighting to Jennifer.Longsdorf@state.ma.us, to help track and, hopefully, save your endangered wildlife neighbors. □

—Angus Kerr

Compiled by Larry Burke, lburke2@me.com



From top: a purple finch, the young red-bellied woodpecker, and a nest of flycatchers

photos by Don Beauchamp

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YOUR TURN

Catherine Twing responded to the NM5VN's establishment in the July issue of a place for our readers' stories with this essay on the nature of our town. We hope that you, too, will share your experiences, incidents, or thoughts through this space. Reviewing the rules:

Up to 1,000 words, but short and succinct is best;

No politics;

Points of view are welcome, but civility is mandatory

Editors reserve the right to accept, reject, and edit

Send your story to Joe Poindexter at joepoindexter@earthlink.net

THE MARLBOROUGHS - NEW AND 'OLD'

By Catherine Twing

How far is New Marlborough from old Marlborough?"

A little over two years ago I received this message on Facebook from someone I went to school with at Castleton University. That individual happened to be from Marlborough, Massachusetts, and now he also happens to be my boyfriend.

Like most people who lived or currently live in one of the five villages, I would tell people I was from Great Barrington, the Berkshires, or simply Western Massachusetts, since there was a good chance they had never heard of New Marlborough. I was only aware there was an "old" Marlborough because people would confuse the names.

After visiting Marlborough many times over the past two years, I became interested in the connection between our two towns. According to Josiah Gilbert Holland's 1855 book *History of Western Massachusetts*, in 1736 "Township No. 2 was granted to 72 proprietors living mostly in Marlborough, Middlesex County, Mass."

Earlier in the same year, the General Court granted four townships between the settlements of Sheffield and Westfield. At the time, they were only referred to by number and did not have names. It should be noted that the modern-day towns are geographically different than they were at the time and have since broken into several towns or absorbed sections to become larger.

Benjamin Wheeler of Marlborough spent the winter of 1739-40 in Township No. 2, "alone or with no white companion." After surviving this winter in what would become our New Marlborough, he brought family and friends across the state to settle the area. Wheeler, unfortunately, died one month before New Marlborough was officially incorporated as a town in June 1759.

In the last two years, I have spent a lot of time in Marlborough. For those of you who have never visited our Eastern Massachusetts sister, it's a city with twenty-five times the population of New Marlborough. It's like comparing apples and broccoli. Can't be done.

Within the city there are two Target stores, a Chipotle, a Dairy Queen, a Starbucks, and a Regal Cinemas. There are also parks, lakes, and some really beautiful recreational areas, about an hour from Boston. It's a great place to visit and to live.

Our town might not have a Target or be within an hour of a major city, but honestly that's what makes it unique, and I'm proud to call this place my hometown. New Marlborough is all about the connection from neighbor to neighbor, the comfort of living among nature, and the ability to disconnect from the world when you need a break.

I love both of these places very much and, in different ways, they are both home.

I previously avoided saying I was from New Marlborough to avoid confusion, but now I'm happy to share. I'm surprised how many people actually do know of the town and have visited or traveled through. And if they aren't familiar, I get to tell them, so then one more person has heard of our corner of the world.

I hope I can share the gospel of New Marlborough to those who live in our big sister city and be that little connection between the two Marlboroughs. □

THE WAY WE WERE: Robert Miller

By Joe Poindexter

In 1957, when Robert Miller was six, his divorced mother married John Ormsbee, and the family moved to Southfield, to the south end of what was then called Main Street. The Southfield Store was up the road, and it wasn't long before Robert discovered a magical bit of new technology sitting on a shelf in the store: a transistor radio. His obvious desire to own this radio was met with an even more obvious dash of reality: "The \$20 it cost might as well have been \$20 million," says Robert. But the moment wasn't missed by Southfield Store proprietor Gardner Rugg. Gardner asked if Robert wanted the radio; then he offered to have him work for it.

In what was his first job, six-year-old Robert Miller took empty soda bottles to the back of the store and sorted them for return to the distributors. Eventually, Mr. Rugg pulled the radio down from the shelf and presented it to his young employee. Robert, for his part, won not only the radio but a lesson about the value of work that has remained with him to this day.

Robert went to New Marlborough Central School at a time when there were so many children from Southfield, they filled a bus all by themselves. His time there, starting with a "mean" first-grade teacher, was memorable. He recalls that on the day John F. Kennedy was assassinated, another teacher, Mrs. Rooney, was so distraught she was speechless. "It was upsetting to see her so shaken." Then there was the day when both straps holding up the dress of his fourth-grade teacher gave way — somehow the buttons came off — and the dress fell to the floor. "She had a slip on, but we just sat at our desks in silence, feeling her embarrassment," says Robert.



In the summers, he and Billy Sanford and Christopher Burnett would fish for native brown and rainbow trout in the Umpachene. In winter, Robert recalls toboggan rides down a hill just south of the village with Bobby Stevens and Mark Edelman, with Robert, the youngest of them, up front. "I can remember the snow hitting me in the face," he says. On Monday nights, John Ormsbee, a selectman at the time, would transport Robert and his pals to the Town Hall. The boys would play basketball — in those days, the main hall was outfitted with hoops — while the Board of Selectmen conducted business next door. Robert was defensive captain of the Mount Everett High School football team. He recalls their joy at beating heavily-favored Searles High School (Great Barrington) in his freshman year.

But from the time he was a teen, Robert has almost never not worked. Whether it was mowing lawns, landscaping, helping put in a driveway, caretaking, he stayed busy. His stepfather put him to work



Robert, five, and friend when he lived at the Williams estate

rolling propane gas cylinders off the delivery truck and onto a hand-truck at the homes of customers — for which he earned 10 cents a tank. During his high-school years, Robert's summer "vacation" was a forty-hour week working as a caretaker at the Cookson estate (now the property of Freddy Friedman).

Robert was admitted to

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Syracuse University's School of Forestry but discovered he lacked the skills to handle the math curriculum and transferred to a liberal arts program at Berkshire Community College. Although he enjoyed his studies there, a deeply ingrained work ethic uprooted him once again. "I said to myself, 'What am I doing here?' I felt like I was on vacation."

He returned to New Marlborough, but not for long. An interest in machinery, ignited, perhaps, by that early transistor radio, was by his teen years focused on motorcycles. Among his acquisitions: a Honda 90 at age fifteen, a Honda Dream 305 at sixteen, and at twenty-three, a Honda 750. "Then I got it into my head that I wanted to ride this motorcycle to South America," he says. Undeterred by the fact that the 750 lacked a windshield, he set off — by way of San Francisco to drop in on a friend. Three years later, he was still in San Francisco, supporting himself with work at a Victoria Station restaurant, when he got word that his grandfather, back east, was ill.

His return to New Marlborough was interrupted once again, this time by a decision to join his brother Danny at a Transcendental Meditation center in Livingston Manor, New York. If Robert was searching for answers, he didn't find them in TM, either. There he was visited by his mother and his on-again-off-again girlfriend from high school days, Maria Dus (who, because the male-only residents



Top: Robert Miller acquired a Harley Davidson Sprint 250 (here, airborne) during his time at Berkshire Community College. Lower: The blended family: John, Anita, Danny, and Robert, then about 17, with their parents John and Anita

of the center practiced celibacy, was introduced as his sister). Maria had already won her way into Robert's heart with shipments of chocolate-chip cookies during what was an otherwise rigorous three-month retreat in India. They married in 1983, renovated and then sold a TM property in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and had two daughters, Elizabeth and Katherine, now thirty and twenty-eight, respectively.

Maria was diagnosed with breast cancer, precipitating a decision to build their own house on Sisson Hill, and died in 1994. For the two-and-a-half years that followed, Jenn Seery, a friend of a friend, helped raise the daughters and came to believe, as she put it, that she was "destined to become a part of [Robert's] family." It took an additional two-and-a-half years — plus a nudge from Katherine, who said, "I'm tired of not having a mother," and the eventual answer to prayers for guidance — for Robert to agree. They married in 1999.

With all of Robert's peregrinations, there has always been the guiding beacon of work. Now that he is on the cusp of full retirement — he gave up the Ormsbee Bus Company this year (see NM5VN, April 2017) and is about to step away from the family's propane company — the question of what will fill the

void looms large.

Is there anyone in need of an experienced soda bottle sorter? □

photos courtesy of Robert Miller



photos courtesy of Debbie O'Brien

Reading and Roughing It: There is no shortage of things to do at the library this summer. Left to right: We all made reading pillows also for Summer Reading Club; Sciencetellers, part of Summer Reading Club, and funded with a grant from NMCC, and Summer Reading Club hike with the New Marlborough Land Trust, to the Crosby-Robbins Mill.

THE LOG

POLICE DEPARTMENT (SELECTED ENTRIES)

- | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|--|---------|------------|--|
| Jun. 1 | 9:00 a.m. | A driver reports hitting a deer the previous evening near the entrance to York Lake on Route 183. | Jun. 15 | 12:15 p.m. | A Mill River Great Barrington Road resident reports the theft of tools. |
| | 2:44 p.m. | After fielding a complaint from a Tennessee resident that she had not received repayment of \$1,500 after canceling the purchase of a dog from a Southfield resident, the Department obtains and communicates the tracking number of a certified check that had been sent as a refund. | | 12:32 p.m. | Mill River resident registers his concern about an abandoned vehicle on private property. |
| | 6:00 p.m. | A caller reports that he has picked up and brought home a dog running loose on Hartsville New Marlborough Road. | | 4:01 p.m. | When pursuit of a speeder on County Road ends in a crash near Cross Road (in Sheffield), the driver, a Canaan resident, is taken into custody and charged with operating an uninsured, unregistered, uninspected motor vehicle on which a different car's plates had been attached and driving in a negligent manner, failing to stop, crossing marked lanes, and speeding with a revoked license. |
| Jun. 3 | 2:50 p.m. | A driver, stopped on Route 57 because his car lacks an inspection sticker, is charged with driving with a revoked license and operating an unregistered vehicle. | Jun. 19 | 1:35 p.m. | Tree down blocking Norfolk Road. |
| | 5:30 p.m. | A caller reports an ATV with one adult and one child without helmets driving on Mill River Great Barrington and Caulkins Cross Roads. | | 1:50 p.m. | Tree down blocking Route 57 in New Marlborough Center. |
| Jun. 5 | 4:08 p.m. | An elder services organization requests a well-being check on a Mill River resident who had not been heard from during the previous three days. | | 2:18 p.m. | Tree on wires blocking New Marlborough Branch Road. |
| Jun. 6 | 6:58 p.m. | A Canaan Valley Road resident reports gunfire, apparently target practice, taking place on state land at the intersection of Campbell Falls and Canaan Valley Roads. | | 3:22 p.m. | Tree on wires blocking Norfolk Road just south of intersection with Canaan Southfield Road. |
| Jun. 7 | 6:04 p.m. | A truck stopped on Canaan Southfield Road is rear-ended by a car. | | 4:28 p.m. | Tree on wires blocking Canaan Southfield Road. |
| | 8:20 p.m. | A Great Barrington resident reports that her black and white Chihuahua has run off on Hartsville New Marlborough Road in the area of Stone Manor Drive. | | 4:59 p.m. | Tree on wires blocking Lumbert Cross Road. |
| Jun. 9 | 2:57 p.m. | Southfield resident reports the theft of a nine-foot, flat bottom aluminum boat that had been stored in a barn. | | 9:16 p.m. | Lightning strike causes power outage on Clayton Mill River Road. |
| Jun. 11 | 12:27 a.m. | A concerned mother reports that her daughter is missing from their Southfield home. | Jun. 21 | 10:34 a.m. | Following a call from a Sisson Hill Road resident concerned about a vehicle that has been parked near his residence since early morning, an officer determines that the vehicle owner is checking timber for a logging job. |
| Jun. 13 | 9:50 a.m. | Mill River Resident reports that a villager has been threatening to take a tractor that does not belong to him. | Jun. 22 | 10:06 p.m. | Sheffield Police request assistance in checking Clayton area following a shots-fired call. |
| | 4:47 p.m. | Mill River Great Barrington Road resident reports IRS phone scam calls. | Jun. 23 | 3:40 p.m. | Motor vehicle stop on Mill River Great Barrington Road leads to the operator being charged with driving an unregistered motor vehicle bearing license plates from a different vehicle. |
| Jun. 14 | 12:21 p.m. | A check of Umpachene Falls Park reveals that a road sign is missing and that the 911 phone at the location appears to be out of order. | | 5:14 p.m. | Disabled motor vehicle on Route 57 |
| | | | | 6:55 p.m. | A Hayes Hill Road resident reports her black Labrador retriever missing. |
| | | | Jun. 24 | 11:02 a.m. | Hartsville residents, returning from a vacation, report a suspicious vehicle parked in their driveway; an investigation determines that it belongs to a neighbor. |
| | | | Jun. 25 | 1:30 p.m. | Tree down on Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road. |

- 2:15 p.m. An officer encounters a disabled vehicle on Hadsell Street, which needs to be towed; the owner's troubles are compounded, however, when the driver he calls for a ride is found to have an expired, non-renewable driver's license.
- Jun. 26 4:01 p.m. A caller reports that flowers she has planted at a gravesite in the Mill River Cemetery have been stolen — twice in the past month.
- Jun. 28 10:00 a.m. A resident complains of speeding on Canaan Valley Road.
- 2:50 p.m. A construction company, admitting

- responsibility for the spill of dirt from a dumptruck onto the roadway near 312 Mill River Great Barrington Road, agrees to clean it up.
- Jun. 29 12:34 p.m. Assist Sheffield Police in Ashley Falls for service of a court-ordered involuntary commitment for substance abuse.
- 7:09 p.m. Rhoades and Bailey Road resident reports trespassers riding a dirt bike on neighbor's property.

Six-month Summary: Thus far in 2017, the Police Department has logged twelve arrests, four accident reports, seven investigations, 118 citations, and 579 calls for service.

Police Chief Graham Frank

THE LOG: FIRE AND RESCUE

- June 2 9:38 p.m. Norfolk Road Medical Call
- June 6 10:15 a.m. Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
- June 10 9:38 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
- June 11 8:05 a.m. Aberdeen Lane CO Alarm
- June 11 11:47 a.m. Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
- June 14 12:15 a.m. Hatchery Road Medical Call
- June 19 3:38 p.m. N.M. Sandisfield Center Road Fire Alarm
- June 19 3:38 p.m. New Marlborough Branch Road Tree on Wires
- June 19 3:38 p.m. Norfolk Road Tree on Wires
- June 19 4:31 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Tree on Wires
- June 19 5:06 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Tree on Wires
- June 25 8:18 a.m. Hayes Hill Road Fire Alarm
- June 27 4:32 p.m. Norfolk Road Fire Alarm
- June 27 12:14 p.m. Norfolk Road Medical Call
- June 28 2:26 a.m. Peter Menaker Road Fire Alarm
- June 29 1:51 p.m. Hayes Hill Road Medical Call

Fire Department President David Smith

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IT IS FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR NEW ART TEACHER

Anna O'Donnell at New Marlborough and Undermountain

By Jane Burke

The eyes of students from New Marlborough Central attending the Flying Cloud SMArt Summer program lit up when they heard that their charismatic art workshop leader, Anna, will be their new art teacher at school in the fall. One of David Hastings's last official acts as superintendent of Southern Berkshire was hiring Anna O'Donnell as the art teacher for the elementary schools. From a young age, she has loved being outdoors, capturing nature through painting. During her studies at Massachusetts College of Art and Design she concentrated on illustration, and was able to spend a semester at the Glasgow School of Art in Glasgow, Scotland. After receiving her Bachelors of Fine Arts in 2006 she pursued a career as an artist. Her art can be seen at annagreensmith.com.

Ms. O'Donnell also enjoyed opportunities to share her artistic skills with children from grades kindergarten through high school. She had led programs at museums, schools, and summer camps in New England, Grenada, and Romania. These experiences were so rewarding she decided to pursue a career in teaching. In 2014 she received a Master of Arts and Teaching degree from Rhode Island School of Design. At RISD she explored the integration of the arts with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEAM). She was so taken with this approach she obtained a certification in STEAM education where art plays a role in student learning through projects that combine these disciplines.

In her previous job as a STEAM educator at Everett High School she heard about the leadership of Flying Cloud Institute in this new field. When she moved to



Anna O'Donnell

the Berkshires in July 2016 to marry Patrick O'Donnell, Education and Outreach Manager at the Norman Rockwell museum, she came to visit the Flying Cloud's SMArt Summer Program to see this work first hand. She was invited to teach a few workshops where she impressed staff and students alike. The students loved her innovative ideas and her enthusiasm for helping them take on a big project. The staff recognized her gift for engaging students and encouraging their individual styles. Last year Flying Cloud Institute brought her into a two-month residency at Lee Elementary School where she led fourth grade classes in the making of electric-powered sculptures as part of a physics project. She loved working in the science classroom doing art.

When the job at Southern Berkshire Regional School District was posted she jumped at the chance to work in this district. In a recent interview she said, "This summer has been amazing teaching visual art at the Flying Cloud SMArt Summer Programs. The students I have met have jumped right into the projects with an open and explorative mindset. I can't wait to see what we can create together in the upcoming year! I greatly look forward to becoming a part of the community and getting to know more students and families. I am looking forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the other art teachers in Southern Berkshire Regional District as well as the science, technology engineering, and math teachers so we can give students deep experiences and understanding of materials covered."

"This upcoming year is going to be very special, and I couldn't be more thrilled about the way it's shaping up!" □

photo by Larry Burke



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FRESH AIR FUND COMES TO NEW MARLBOROUGH

By Evie Kerr

On Monday, July 3, over a dozen excited families waited at Monument Valley Middle School to welcome the Fresh Air Fund bus from New York. For the past 140 years the Fresh Air Fund has invited children from New York City to stay with families in the country for a week. Host families come from all over New England and southern Canada. At the bus stop that day, there were eleven families from the Southern Berkshires, including three from New Marlborough.

Our family hosted Davion, aged ten, for the second year in a row. Last year there were many "firsts" for Davion, including floating down the creek, catching crayfish, and hiking in the woods; this year while Davion experienced his first waterfall at Campbell Falls, the Norman Rockwell Museum and Turn Park in West Stockbridge, we spent most of the time just enjoying his favorite activities: bouncing on the trampoline, splashing in the creek, swimming in the lakes, and catching crayfish with my brother, Digby. Other Berkshire families planned to go hiking, swimming, camping, and do some cooking and gardening with their Fresh Air Fund child.

On the Fourth of July, we met up with the other New Marlborough host families, Kenzie and Shawn Fields, with Vanessa, and Daniel Doern and David Cichetti,



photo by Fiona Kerr

Having a rest on the hammock at Turn Park in West Stockbridge

with Shawn, to float down the Konkapot, have a barbecue, and play fun lawn games.

The Fresh Air Fund not only gives the kids from New York an opportunity to experience life in the country; it is also a good chance for us to get to know what life in the city might be like, and we get to spend a fun week exploring the area we live in.

Although we were disappointed when the week was over, we are all excited to have Davion, and all the Fresh Air Fund kids, return next year. □

photo by Kenzie Fields



Kerr and Fields kids with their guests at the July 4th picnic: (left to right) Davion, Peter, Tessa (a neighbor), Digby, Vanessa, Shawn, Honey, Angus, and Odie

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Adult Nonfiction

Crochet, Learn it. Love It: Techniques and Projects to Build a Lifelong Passion for Beginners Up, by Tracey Todhunter
When Breath Becomes Air, by Paul Kalanithi
The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For, by David McCullough

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The War That Saved My Life, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
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▶ **Pies!** The New Marlborough Friends of the Library are looking for pie bakers for their annual bake sale August 19. If interested, please call the library at 413-229-6668

▶ **New Marlborough Library Film Series** will be screening *Frame by Frame* on August 8 at 7:30 p.m. Please R.S.V.P., space is limited, 413-229-6668 or newmarlborough@gmail.com

▶ **Join us** August 26 at 10:00 a.m. for coffee, bagels and a lively discussion of the book, *Foreign Bodies*, by Cynthia Ozick.

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Photo by Debbie O'Brien

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

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

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

Board of Assessors: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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

Building Inspector: Monday 5 - 7 p.m., Wednesday 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Post Office: Mill River Window: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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

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(The Southfield Post Office 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.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

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

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SERVICE SECTOR 8/17

- **Cohen and White Associates, Monterey office:** Nancy Kalodner, Senior Affiliate Broker. Offering New Marlborough the finest professional real estate services since 1979. Call 528-9595 or 413-446-1115
- **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. 413- 528-4960. chris@design-planning.com.
- **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or info@designfirstberkshires.com.
- **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 229-0050
- **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450
- **Ter Mar Triangle Farm:** 106 Sandy Brook Turnpike (Rte 183), Sandisfield; 413-258-2898; fruits and vegetables in season; pork; jam; eggs; honey; sawmill; kiln milling; firewood
- **Woodruff Mountain Landscaping:** Excavation and landscape contracting, all forms of stone work and masonry, and outdoor services, including lawn mowing and yard work. 413-229-2919 woodruffmountain@aol.com

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