



# New Marlborough 5 Village News

VOL XIX  
NO 4  
August 2018

Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

## GROW — OR NO-GROW

### Commercial Cannabis? A New Committee Will Help the Town Decide

By Larry Burke

New Marlborough is now a step closer to controlling its own destiny as regards the commercial production and sale of marijuana. At a special meeting preceding the regular Planning Board meeting on July 11, Chairman Peter Tiso began the process of establishing an ad hoc committee that would help formulate a bylaw to regulate commercial marijuana in New Marlborough. The committee had been authorized back at the monthly meeting on April 11. At that earlier meeting, the Board voted 2-1 in opposition to a cannabis moratorium, but Mr. Tiso persuaded his fellow members to accept a motion that would “support the merits of writing a bylaw to address commercial marijuana,” on the condition that an ad hoc committee be formed to assist the Planning Board.



photo by Sandra Fusco Walker

Planning Board member Mark Carson, front table left, reviews notes on the formation of an ad hoc committee.

This all took place two days before a Special Town Meeting, instigated by citizens who were concerned that the town was ill-prepared to consider the ramifications of a marijuana industry within its borders. The sole article on the warrant asked whether to declare a moratorium, as amended, until June 30, 2019, on applications for the production and sale of marijuana. Despite the Planning Board's continued opposition, the moratorium was overwhelmingly approved.

Mr. Tiso got the July 11 meeting underway by saying that twenty-three people had indicated an interest in joining the committee. About half of them were in the audience, including Daniel Doern, who had done a great deal of the legwork in contacting a cross-section of townspeople about the committee. Mr. Tiso said that, while twenty-three members might be “rather unwieldy,” he did not want to discourage anyone from joining in and attending the many meetings he expected would take place between August and late November. As a starting point, he suggested that those who had shown up that evening might be a good number. That turned out to be eleven citizens. They are: Eugene Cleary, Daniel Doern, William Kelly, Barbara Kelly, Jackson Liscomb, Richard Long, Barbara Marchione, Eric Schaeffer, Michael Shocket, Sandra Walker, and Jeff Wallman. Mr. Tiso added Rebecca Schreiber and Louise Yohalem, both of whom, though not present, were firm in wanting to be a part of the process, to what he termed

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Grow — or No Grow, continued

“the core committee.”

In addition to this group, one member of the Planning Board and one member of the Board of Selectmen will also serve on the committee.

Julia Trumbull voiced her concern that the ad hoc committee be composed of a true cross-section of the town, with members representing each of the five villages and a variety of occupations.

A quick polling of the thirteen proposed members revealed that, in fact, they did fill the bill. “Our town has some growing to do to keep up with the needs of its people and the 21st century while maintaining the atmosphere and style that makes it special,” said Ms. Trumbull. “It is good to see so many people voicing their ideas and stepping up to the various tasks to guide and support these town projects.”

Another concern, this time from Planning Board member James Mullen, had to do with the organizational structure of the committee. In response, Daniel Doern said that he expected there would be a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary, to be determined at the first meeting of the committee after its existence and membership were established by the Board of Selectmen. The Planning Board found this to be satisfactory.

There was general agreement that the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee, as it will be known, will follow all the established guidelines on holding public meetings and hearings. As he had written in his email to interested par-



Eleven of the thirteen members eventually named to the committee were present at the Planning Board meeting. photo by Sandra Fusco Walker


ties, Mr. Tiso conceives of the work of the committee to be “to gather information and conduct public outreach and discussion to help the Planning Board decide on future actions related to regulation of cannabis establishments in the Town of New Marlborough.”

He expects that the ad hoc committee will meet two or three times per month and host three or four public information meetings. Meeting agendas will be

posted outside Town Hall on the bulletin board. Along with minutes of the meetings, they will be posted online at [www.newmarlboroughma.gov/pages/index](http://www.newmarlboroughma.gov/pages/index). Meetings will conclude around Thanksgiving. At that time, the ad hoc committee will relay its findings to the Planning Board, which will then proceed with the drafting of a bylaw to deal with all aspects of cannabis production and retailing in New Marlborough. Mr. Tiso made it clear that the ad hoc committee would not have a role in the actual writing of the bylaw. Eventually, of course, the marijuana decision is up to the citizens of New Marlborough. Any new bylaw must be approved by at least two-thirds of the Town’s voters.

The Planning Board received approval of its Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee from the Board of Selectmen at the July 17 meeting of the selectmen. □

additional reporting by Sandra Fusco Walker



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## THE ELMS AT 10

American elms once graced all of New Marlborough's five villages. Then came the Dutch elm disease (actually caused by a fungus from Asia but thought to have spread to the United States via a shipment of logs from the Netherlands in 1928), and the town lost all but one of its elms. (This one still stands in stately grandeur at the north end of Norfolk Road where it meets the Mill River Southfield Road.)

In 2007-08, as the town approached its 250th anniversary, the New Marlborough Land Trust decided to celebrate by re-establishing the elm tree. Under the aegis of the Tree Planting Project (headed by Board member Owen Hoberman), the Land Trust planted twenty-two disease-resistant Princeton elms in strategic locations in all five villages: six at the southern end of Norfolk Road, four in New Marlborough village, three in Clayton, three next to the grange hall in Hartsville, three on Mill River Southfield Road next to the Highway Department garage, and three at the intersection of Mill River Great Barrington and County Roads.



photos by Joe Poindexter

The survivor: an American Elm just north of the steel bridge in Southfield. Left, one of the ten-year-olds, on Mill River Southfield Road.

During the following two years, a team of dedicated arborists, Martha Bryan, Patricia Hardyman, Leslie Miller, and Mr. Hoberman, weeded and fertilized the plantings. As a result all but two are thriving. In another decade or two, the trees should reach their mature height of seventy to eighty feet, and the elm tree will once again make its presence felt in New Marlborough. □

Joe Poindexter

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## Town Business Is Your Business

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**June 20:** The meeting, called to order at 6:36 p.m. with all three selectmen present, consumed an hour editing and rewriting the initial draft of the June 11 minutes and didn't get down to new business until 7:36 p.m.

The first item was a request of \$100 to help pay for someone to take minutes of the meetings of the School Committee's School Assessment Subcommittee. Michele Shalaby, who chairs the subcommittee, serving along with selectmen and finance committee members from the five Southern Berkshire Regional School District towns, said no one on the subcommittee wanted the job. The Board agreed to pay its share — the other four towns are also being asked for \$100 — out of its contingency fund. Biweekly meetings of the subcommittee, whose mandate is to recommend changes to the district's budget assessment formula, will be open to the public.

**Nat Yohalem said the town is applying for another \$1 million MassWorks grant this summer. If successful, it will use the money to reclaim a 2.3-mile stretch of Route 57, starting at the intersection with Route 183 and continuing to the Sandisfield town line.** He plans to solicit letters of support from the boards of the four towns through which Route 57 passes, Monterey, Sandisfield, Tolland, and Granville, as well as from local businesses and emergency services in those towns, for whom use of the road is vital. He also intends to solicit endorsements from state and federal officials, including the Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, who indicated her support for the project at a meeting with Town officials in April. The application is due August 10.

In other matters, Ms. Shalaby said the Finance Committee had proposed a date of June 28 for a joint meeting with the selectmen to deal with year-end budget issues and that she wanted to prepare for a transition to

FY19 at an early July meeting. This would be an opportunity, she said, to look back at "what the Board's goals were for the previous year, what we still need to address and carry forward, and to set new goals for the coming year."

In addition, the Board has to complete its annual review and approval of Town officer appointments to the Town's various boards and committees, finalize and sign employment contracts with the highway superintendent, town administrator, and fire chief, and sign a new lease with the Fire Company for garaging the police cruiser.

Town Administrator Mari Enoch updated the Board on the purchase of a new road grader (see story on page 24) and reported that Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard has approved the minutes from the Oasis special permit hearing without any changes — satisfying an earlier request from Mr. Yohalem that the minutes be approved before they were posted on the Town website. Ms. Enoch reported that, according to Mr. Pollard, **the Attorney General has approved the Town's temporary marijuana moratorium, to include an extended expiration date of June 30, 2019.** Finally, Ms. Enoch updated the Board on broadband developments (see Broadband Update on page 10).

Under selectmen updates, Ms. White reported that the Planning Board at a recent meeting adopted a proposal by town resident Daniel Doern to create an ad hoc cannabis committee that would assist the Planning Board in developing a marijuana bylaw (see story on page 1). According to Mr. Doern's proposal, the committee will conduct "a public process" to inform townspeople of the cannabis facilities available to the Town under the recently-enacted state marijuana regulations and then determine which of those facilities, if any, the town would prefer.

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Ms. Shalaby said the selectmen received a letter from Council on Aging's Prue Spaulding requesting two more handicapped parking spaces be added to the Town Hall parking lot. Currently, there is only one. "As you may have noticed," Ms. Spaulding wrote in her letter, "we have three citizens who frequently attend meetings who qualify for handicapped parking." Ms. Enoch said she will check with Chuck Loring about ordering the signs and that in the meantime she will ask Town Hall custodian Alvin Stalker to provide hand-made signs and have them up in time for Saturday's broadband informational meeting.

Ms. Shalaby said the Town received a letter from the Baystate Roads program at the UMass Amherst Transportation Center congratulating Bill Ruane on completing the requirements for the state's Roads Scholar program (see Highway Department News, page 24).

Finally, the Board set the dates of its summer every-other-week meeting schedule, starting on July 2 and ending September 10 — each of the meetings coming on a Monday except the one on July 17, which is a Tuesday.

Because of the lateness of the hour, 9:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned without approving three more sets of minutes — but not before the Board resolved to have all minutes turned over for review and editing by Ms. Enoch before they are presented to the Board for approval.

**June 25:** With a new protocol in place and a determination to keep up with minutes approvals, the Board, with all three selectmen present, spent the first half hour reviewing and approving the minutes of its June 21 meeting. Then, at the end of the session, two-and-a-half-hours later, it devoted another half hour to reviewing three sets of minutes from April and May, leaving it with just three more to review and approve before the once-lengthy backlog is eliminated.

The Board reviewed a memo from Building Commissioner Tom Carmody, outlining, as requested, a proposed division of his building inspector's salary between himself and newly-appointed assistant building inspector Owen Wright. He also proposed a change in Mr. Wright's title to conditional local inspector, to remain in effect until Mr. Wright achieves building inspector certification from the state. All of this is pursuant to the Board's goal of restructuring the Building Department in view of Mr. Carmody's expected departure.

Currently, Mr. Carmody is receiving 60 percent of the building inspector's \$390.44 weekly salary, versus Mr. Wright's 40 percent. That ratio would remain in effect, according to his memo, until September 2, when they

would begin splitting the salary evenly. Then on November 2 the split would reverse, with Mr. Wright receiving 60 percent and Mr. Carmody 40 percent.

**In the meantime, Mr. Wright, claiming he is handling as much of the department's business as he can, said he is covering its office hours on Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. and Monday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.,** "with or without Tom being there," he noted,

and that he's accessible the rest of the time via email or voice mail.

As previously reported, the Board is also intent on appointing an alternate inspector who would step in when the building inspector is away or otherwise unavailable. To make all of this official, the Board continued Mr. Carmody as building commissioner and

appointed Mr. Wright as conditional local inspector, both appointments to be effective through the end of the calendar year.

In a review of Town officer appointments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, Board Secretary Sharon Fleck said that forty-four of the current office holders have indicated their willingness to serve another term and that thirty-seven have yet to be heard from. Nevertheless, to move things along, the Board reappointed all current office holders conditioned on their acceptance, with the exception that Cultural Council appointments be put on hold, pending clarification of the length of their terms.

Separately, Ms. Enoch reminded the Board of the need for a Commission on Disabilities and the urgency to put out a call for potential candidates. She also suggested that consideration be given to appointing a second assistant town clerk, someone who is authorized to post a meeting agenda when Town Clerk Kathy Chretien and Assistant Town Clerk Sharon Fleck are both away at the same time. **She reminded the Board that it almost missed holding the previous week's meeting — at which a broadband provider was selected — because no one**

***A joint Selectmen-Finance Committee meeting would provide an opportunity to set new goals for the coming year.***



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was available to post the agenda. According to the state's Open Meeting Law, only town clerks and their assistants are authorized to post meeting agendas.

Moving on, the Board approved a one-year extension of Town Administrator Enoch's employment contract, but still has to approve and sign Mr. Loring's contracts as fire chief and highway superintendent. It also approved the renewal of the lease with the Fire Company for garaging the police cruiser at a rent of \$500 per month.

In other business, the Board voted to approve a joint purchase agreement with the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) to obtain health insurance for the Town's employees from Berkshire Health Group (BHG). As previously reported, Berkshire County Insurance Group, which had been purchasing health insurance for a group of about twenty or so Berkshire County towns and agencies that are too small to purchase group insurance on their own, is dissolving. So SBRSD stepped in and agreed to sponsor several of the towns, including New Marlborough, Mount Washington, Alford, and Sheffield to continue obtaining health insurance through BHG. According to Ms. Enoch, the transition is expected to be seamless in that there will be no change to employees' benefits, while the cost to the Town might even be slightly lower.

In preparation for its upcoming joint meeting with the Finance Committee, Ms. Enoch said the Board will need to consider making a recommendation to the Finance Committee for a Reserve Fund transfer to cover broadband legal fees incurred in the preparation of the most recent RFP. In addition, there's a request from Police Chief Graham Frank for \$3,700 for a radar speed limit sign to be installed on the Norfolk Road in Southfield. She said the Highway Department ordered two signs – one for each side of Norfolk Road – at a combined cost of \$7,400 and Chief Frank agreed to pick up half of it, but as it turns he doesn't have money in his budget to cover it. The Board, however, was undecided whether it would seek Finance Committee approval for a Reserve Fund transfer or tap one of the Highway Department's budgets, several of which have end-of-year surpluses.

The Town received a second letter of congratulations from the Baystate Roads program, this one on behalf of the Highway Department's Pete Wilson who has also completed the requirements of the Roads Scholar Program.

And finally, Assessors Clerk Marsha Pshenishny informed the Board via email that she is now working summer hours, and that her office is open from 7:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday. As the

meeting adjourned, there was some grumbling on the Board's part that, as a matter of courtesy, Ms. Pshenishny might have let them know that ahead of time.

**June 28:** The Board met in joint session with four of the members of the Finance Committee, just enough for a quorum, to take care of some year-end business. As the first item of business, the Board proposed three Reserve Fund requests for Finance Committee approval: \$277.84 to cover a final Highway Department propane bill; \$2,117.40 for broadband legal expenses, and \$3,700 for a radar speed limit sign for Norfolk Road submitted by Police Chief Graham Frank. According to Town Accountant Tara White, there's \$48,000 in the Reserve Fund.

The Finance Committee, which has final say over all Reserve Fund disbursements, moved quickly to approve the propane and legal services requests, but balked at the speed sign as not fitting the Reserve Fund criteria of being an "unusual or unexpected expense." As Highway Superintendent Loring had earlier explained, the speed signs have been under discussion between the Highway and Police Departments for at least a year, with Mr. Loring and Chief Frank, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting, agreeing to split the \$7,400 cost for the two signs, one on each side of Norfolk Road. And while the Highway Department has already paid for one of the signs, Chief Frank, as previously reported, doesn't have the money in his budget for the other, according to Mr. Loring.

What Finance Committee Chair Steve Klein wanted to know is why, if this has been under discussion for over a year, it didn't show up in a budget somewhere? **"This puts us in a difficult position,"** he said, **"It's obviously something everybody's in favor of. But it's hard to treat it as an unforeseen emergency."**

"We could send it back, I guess," said Mr. Loring, at which point Selectman Yohalem jumped in to say,

*The Attorney General has approved the Town's temporary marijuana moratorium, to include an extended expiration date of June 30, 2019.*



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“Anybody who’s gone to the Southfield Store knows there’s a need to control speeding there. The complaints have been numerous for years. It’s the Board’s feeling that there’s a need for the sign, and the money for it should be taken out of the Reserve Fund.”

“With all due respect,” Mr. Klein replied, “this is not about need. It’s about appropriate planning and budgeting, and this doesn’t seem to meet the standard for either.” And with that the Finance Committee voted it down.

With that seemingly out of the way, the group moved on to line item budget transfers, which, as Ms. Enoch noted, require the approval of both groups. She said there are three budget areas with year-end overages that need to be trued up — salaries, household hazardous waste, and rescue squad stipends.

As she explained, the salary overages of \$765.39, which actually go back several years, are the result of a calendar anomaly related to when paychecks are issued. So the group agreed to transfer that amount from the selectmen’s contingency budget to the salary lines with overages. Similarly, the group voted to transfer \$109 from Transfer Station Expenses to the Household Hazardous Waste budget and \$4,150 from Fire and Rescue Expenses to Fire and Rescue Stipends.

Highway Superintendent Loring gave the group an update on the status of the outside contractor who does the Town’s roadside mowing. He is ill, said Mr. Loring, and no longer able to perform the work. **He said the Town will do what it can this year to get by but will need a permanent solution starting next year that likely will require the purchase of a tractor and mower attachment, since the contractor had been using his own equipment, and a possible addition to staff.**

Before Mr. Loring could leave, Mr. Yohalem raised once again the issue of the \$3,700 radar speed limit sign, saying, “I think it’s an absolute necessity to control the speeding which occurs on Norfolk Road in Southfield; it’s a dangerous condition.” He then went on to suggest that both committees vote to transfer the funds from the surplus in the Highway Department’s Diesel Account to the Police Department Expenses budget. After some further back and forth between Mr. Klein and Mr. Yohalem, the two bodies got together and voted unanimously to do exactly that.

And finally, before adjourning, Ms. Shalaby suggested the two groups get together again after Labor Day to begin working on certain policy issues that have recently arisen. These include developing guidelines for when the Town should borrow, use free cash, or draw down money from the Stabilization Fund to make capital purchases;

establish a mileage reimbursement plan; and define the difference between a stipend and a salary and decide on appropriate levels for each. They then set a date of September 20 at 6:00 p.m. to get together again and deal with these and other policy issues.

*Peter Schuyten*

**July 2:** With all three members present, the selectmen reviewed and approved, as amended, the minutes of the meetings of June 25 and 28. Chairman Michele Shalaby, following up on her conversation with Fire Chief Chuck Loring, said that she had received a note from him detailing the appointment of New Marlborough Fire and Rescue officers: David Smith, deputy chief; Robert Dvorchik, assistant chief; and Maureen Krejci, chief medical officer.

The selectman then appointed three new members to the New Marlborough Cultural Council for three-year terms: Alice Fahs, Linda Fass, and Marjorie Shapiro. Freddy Friedman, Tom Brazie, and Jan Johnson have accepted reappointment to the Agriculture Commission. Patricia Hardyman has informed the Board of her decision to leave the Planning Board. (Later in the meeting, the Board resolved to send Ms. Hardyman a letter of thanks for her years of service to the town.) Freddy Friedman was appointed to a one-year term on the Conservation Commission and as solid waste coordinator, also for one year.

In the spirit of streamlining the decision-making process, Nat Yohalem moved to dissolve the Broadband Committee, adding that Steve Klein and Richard Long have volunteered to continue on as advisors to the Board of Selectmen. The motion was approved unanimously. **Mr. Klein asked the Board to make a “resolution of acceptance” to a statement tailored by the Broadband Committee, granting “issuing authority” to the Town of New Marlborough to initiate the cable licensing process with Charter Communications.** The motion

***Forty-four of the current Town office holders have indicated their willingness to serve another term, and thirty-seven have yet to be heard from.***

**\$\$\$ BUYING GOLD \$\$\$**

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was approved, and a copy of the resolution will be posted at Town Hall and on the Town website.

Returning to appointments, the Board approved the following officers for one-year terms: Lawrence Davis, Jr. as moth superintendent, Merrie Albolafia to the Council on Aging, and Robert Twing to the Umpachene Park Commission. The Board also approved the contracts for fire chief and highway superintendent, both offices held by Chuck Loring, for another year at the same compensation as the previous fiscal year, with the exception of a 2 percent cost-of-living increase to the highway superintendent position.

Reporting on a proposed contract from Paul S. Kapinos and Associates to undertake a three-year revaluation program, Ms. Shalaby suggested that, prior to acting on this contract, the Board have the Board of Assessors ask Kapinos for a report about aspects of the previous year's evaluations, particularly about the reductions in property values around Lake Buel and Lake Windemere. She also would like Kapinos to supply information relating to the setting up of the two PILOT solar programs.

**Ms. Shalaby then asked for a motion that the Town withdraw from the WiredWest consortium. Mr. Yohalem supplied that motion, and it was adopted unanimously.** Ms. Shalaby confirmed that she had written to the Massachusetts Broadband Institute of the Town's decision to have Charter Communications provide the Town's broadband network. She also said that Messrs. Klein and Long will be reaching out to the town of Egremont, which is served by Charter, for information on dealing with that corporation. Mr. Yohalem, anticipating questions from the public about the choice of Charter, cautioned that Board members should "all be on the same page." He urged that Michele Shalaby, as chairman, be the primary spokesperson, especially to the press. In her absence, Mr. Yohalem suggested that Mari Enoch, as town administrator, be the backup spokesperson.

Ms. Shalaby then informed the Board of a letter from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), requesting the appointment of at least five members to the Commission on Disabilities. She said that the BRPC's timetable necessitates that said members be appointed at the Board's next regular meeting, July 17. Notice of the positions will be sent out as soon as possible.

**In response to Mr. Yohalem's concern that the current tree warden is moving away from New Marlborough, the Board resolved to appoint his replacement until the elections of 2019.** The Board also noted that Ms. Hardyman's position on Planning Board would have to be filled, as well as her role as the Town's alternate delegate to BRPC.

*In the spirit of streamlining the decision-making process, Nat Yohalem moved to dissolve the Broadband Committee.*

The Board had received a note from Fire Chief Loring on the successful completion of the 160-hour Emergency Medical Technician course by Robert and Tess Fedell, who now become the two newest EMTs of New Marlborough's ambulance squad (see Neighbors, page 17). Letters of congratulations will be sent to each. Chief Loring also reported that Engine One sustained some damage on the steel bridge in Southfield as it was returning from a call. The fire truck is still in service, but awaiting repairs.

Finally, Ms. Shalaby suggested that all of the Town's inspectors – animal, plumbing, wiring, building, gas, and Board of Health – keep logs of their time spent on inspections, to be submitted on a quarterly basis. She also recommended that the Finance Committee establish a mileage reimbursement policy for the inspectors, and for Town officers in general.

Larry Burke

**July 17:** The Board, with all three members present, reviewed and approved paperwork for the purchase of the Highway Department's new grader, the money for which was approved at the Annual Town Meeting in May. The price was \$314,255, to which \$8,200 was added for an auto-lubrication system plus \$1,000 or so – Highway Superintendent Loring didn't have a final price yet – for a two-way radio. That brings the total to just under the \$325,000 approved by the voters at Town Meeting.

The grader, a Caterpillar 120M AWD, comes with a wing and a plow and a seven-year, four-thousand hour warranty. Delivery, according to Mr. Loring, will likely be around the end of the year. (For more on the grader see Highway Department News on page 24.)

Most of the rest of the meeting was devoted to Town appointments. On the recommendation of the Planning Board, the selectmen named thirteen people to the newly established Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee. (See story on page 1).

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The Board also named seven members to the newly-formed ADA Commission on Disabilities. They are Sharon Fleck, Marilyn Fracasso, Kelly Anne McGuire, John Hotaling, John Pshenishny, Prudence Spaulding, and Tom Stalker. The goal of the commission, according to Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), "is to promote and implement the full integration and participation of people with disabilities in the town of New Marlborough." BRPC requires that at least half the members of the commission be disabled, and that it contain at least one the member of a family in which someone has a disability. The members will serve staggered terms of one, two, and three years.

In other appointments, the Board approved one-year terms for the following Town officers: Michelle Dawson to the Board of Registrars; Dan Litchfield to the Zoning Board of Appeals; Don Hopkins, assistant plumbing inspector; Larry Burke, assistant right-to-know officer, and Christopher Hasset to the Lake Buel Restoration and Preservation District. In other appointments the Board named Courtney Davis to the Umpachene Falls Park Commission, Eli Cook to the Agricultural Commission, and Lon Combs as alternate delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. It reappointed Ed Harvey as emergency management director.

Then the discussion around the table got lively. As read by Mr. Yohalem, it concerned an email to the Town from Michael Greenblatt of Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road. In it, he complains that a group of forty-five to fifty people, apparently from Connecticut, had "invaded" Umpachene Falls Park on the Fourth of July. The entire parking area was filled with Connecticut cars, wrote Mr. Greenblatt, and they had three pit bulls with them. "Scary," said the email – and "very rude and inconsiderate people." The email concluded by saying that "the locals were concerned," adding, "It's not right for us to be invaded," and he wanted to know "what will be done," even offering to pay some of the costs of restoring civility to the park.

Noting that the idea of restricting use of the park to New Marlborough residents has come up a number of times in the past, Mr. Yohalem went through the various scenarios by which that might be accomplished – including issuing permits, "paying someone to sit there and check IDs, or asking the Police Chief to have one of his officers drive down there on summer holidays and weekends to check license plates." After acknowledging the obvious problems with each of these, Mr. Yohalem concluded, "I really don't know what we can do about it. I don't know the answer."

***The Board concluded there wasn't a lot it could, or even wanted, to do to curb outsider use of Umpachene Falls Park.***

Ms. Enoch pointed out that while there is a general understanding that the park is restricted to Town residents and their guests, there is nothing in the deed donating the land for the park that says so. "It would appear that it's public property," she said, "and I don't think you can keep out-of-town people out of it any more than you can keep them out of the Town Hall parking lot or the library."

Taking it a step further, resident Dan Doern, who was also in the park on the Fourth, had a very different view of activities in the park, saying "it was a joyous day, with people having a good time. I didn't see anybody who was rude. So I think it's a matter of perspective." Further, he said because the park is just down the street from his house, he goes there a lot during the summer and seldom sees more than ten people there. "I just don't think it's a problem personally."

To which Ms. Shalaby added, "I kind of agree. I don't see this as a constant, regular problem. And there was no damage done to the property there. It didn't hurt a thing." The Board concluded there wasn't a lot it could, or even wanted to do as a result of the "invasion." And that was that. Ms. Shalaby, as chairman, will be responding to Mr. Greenblatt by email.

Next, the Board tackled review of the as-yet unapproved meeting minutes. An hour later, the long-neglected backlog was finally gone, and the meeting was adjourned. □

*Peter Schuyten*

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## BROADBAND UPDATE

### Next: The Fine Print

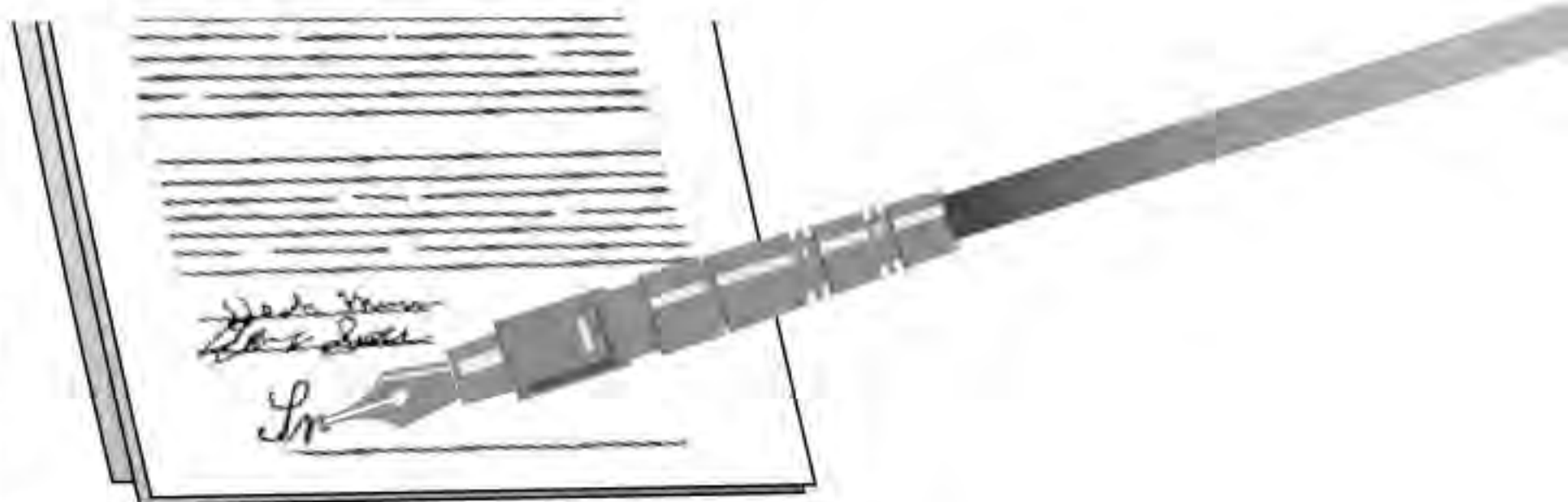
By Barry R. Shapiro

Now that the dust has settled and the Board of Selectmen has selected Charter Communications to provide high-speed, fiber-optic internet service to the Town, work has begun to get the necessary contracts in place. Broadband Committee Chairman Richard Long advises that the Committee, which worked so diligently to explore all broadband options, was recently dissolved and that he and former Committee member Steve Klein are now working on an informal basis with the selectmen as the Board works to finalize the necessary contractual agreements.

"There are two agreements which need to be put into place," said Mr. Long. "The first is the cable franchise agreement between the Town and Charter. That agreement governs the television services that Charter will provide. We have collected many samples of such agreements including the one recently negotiated between Charter and Egremont. We are awaiting a draft agreement from Charter, which we will review with the aid of counsel and negotiate. The other is a grant agreement between the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), the state agency providing financing for the project, and Charter that will govern internet and phone service."

Messrs. Long and Klein plan to remain in touch with MBI to assure that the agreements are coordinated and the services provided meet certain minimum standards of performance. As reported last month, these would include:

- the wiring of 96 percent or more of the town's residences;
- minimum download speeds of 100 Mbps and upload speeds of 10 Mbps (and up to 1 gigabit at additional cost);



- free wiring from the nearest utility pole to the home (likely to be up to 250 feet, though still to be negotiated); installation, \$50;
- basic internet monthly subscription fee of \$45 for the first two years, \$65 thereafter.

The cable franchise agreement would also contain details regarding construction, maintenance, penalties for outages, and other requirements.

Mr. Long noted that MBI would not finalize the grant agreement with Charter until the Town completes its cable franchise agreement. "This is the start of the process and we hope to speed it along. We know that all parties are working on getting this done promptly so that the work of stringing the fiber can begin."

Michele Shalaby, chair of the Board of Selectmen, is pleased at the progress the Town has made. "We are moving forward expeditiously, thanks to the continued efforts of [Town Administrator] Mari Enoch, Richard Long, and Steve Klein. We've all waited long enough. It's also helpful that there are a few towns out in front of us in the same effort. We can learn from them. Overall, feedback we've received from residents is that they are grateful to have a definitive direction."

More next month and, until then, stay tuned. □

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## FORTY-FOUR YEARS AND COUNTING

*Get Ready for Elihu Burritt Day, August 18*

The annual celebration of Elihu Burritt Day, its forty-fifth, honoring New Marlborough's "learned blacksmith" and peace activist, is taking place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on August 18 on the New Marlborough Village Green, sponsored by the New Marlborough Cultural Council. As usual, activities will include entertainment, hayrides, crafts, books, baked goods, white elephants, and the annual classic car show.

At 10:00 a.m. the 5K Fun Run/Walk will start off, while the other exhibitors and vendors get under way on the village green. Antiques appraiser Charles Flint will join us once again from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; attendees can bring items for appraisal or photos of larger items, and Mr. Flint will provide an estimate of value. Charge for a single item is \$5, \$10 for three; proceeds go directly to support Cultural Council grant activities. Hayrides, offered by Freddy Friedman and Tom Brazie, will be available throughout the day. Roger the Jester will be on hand at 11:00 a.m. to entertain young and old, and at 1:00 p.m. Henry the Juggler will impress the audience with his dexterity.

At noon, medals for the 5K run winners will be awarded. Debra Herman will receive a special appreciation of her contribution to communication throughout the town by establishing and monitoring Maggie's List for the past ten years. It now serves more than 500 people. And the Annual Elihu Burritt Award for Community Service will be presented to volunteer-extroardinaire Louise Yohalem by the Council and State Representative Smitty Pignatelli.

The Library's Book and Bake Sale, sponsored by the New Marlborough Friends of the Library, will offer a huge display of used books, CDs, and DVDs for sale, as well as a tempting array of baked goods. Proceeds will support expanded library programs.

The Cultural Council's White Elephant Sale sports the motto: "If we don't have it, you don't need it," with tables full of odd bits of just about everything. There will also be a Silent Auction for items of special value. This year's offerings include a virtually new Loyd Flanders porch swing, still in production today and nowadays valued at \$1,700, and a unique pair of woodland sculptures by the late New Marlborough artist, Susie Hardcastle, and her students at Flying Cloud Institute.

The Fire Department and First Responders, on site to demonstrate their equipment and services, will be selling tickets to the annual Pig Roast and raffle, which starts at 5:00 p.m. at the firehouse in Southfield.

Most important: Come to relax and hang out with your friends and neighbors. Have some good food provided by the Food Cart, the Southfield Store, and the Flour Bin. Pet a bunny, or a sheep, or a donkey, or one of the many dogs in attendance. Go on a hayride. Have fun. Burritt Day is a rain-or-shine event, and, not to hex it, the day hasn't yet been rained out in forty-three years. □

*Barbara Lowman*

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## NEW MARLBOROUGH ARTISTS

### *A Burst of Creativity at the Season's Final Show*

By Pam Stebbins

The third and final art show in the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, opening August 31, will put on display an exceptionally broad display of artistic talent. Featuring the work of eight New Marlborough artists, this multi-media exhibit will include a ceramicist, Cookie Coyne, a photographer, Nikki Hayes, two watercolorists, Eugene Cleary and Elizabeth Lombardi, and four painters, Ron Brecher, Peter Long, Timothy Sleeper, and Jacob Fossum.

Mr. Fossum, who lives in Mill River and commutes to Great Barrington, where he has a studio and a teaching job at Bard College at Simon's Rock, has been painting for twenty-eight years but has never until now shown in New Marlborough. Viewers are in for an engaging encounter with bright color and challenging imagery. One of his major goals in painting, he says, is to get people to sit and look at his work and ask questions about what they see.

His painting informs his teaching — and his teaching his painting. He says he likes the way teaching pushes him to reinvestigate the principles of color, form, composition, and value. He considers himself a traditional teacher, but he encourages his students, once they have mastered basic painting skills, to explore and experiment and expand their creative capability. And he challenges himself in the same way in his own work. On his website, he describes himself as an artist, teacher, and musician, whose work deals primarily with the uniqueness of personal experience and what gets lost in translation. He says he is awed and inspired by nature and is currently exploring the ability of the body to heal and nurture itself.



*Jacob Fossum's I See Myself as Water, 42" x 65" Oil on Linen*

Many of his paintings express a mystical quality. Some of them include Biblical references and divine imagery, but his interest in religion incorporates Eastern as well as Western beliefs and practices. At the moment he is painting his interpretation of the Chakras, the seven centers of energy in the human body as described in ancient Hindu literature. Each center of energy has a specific theme with a color assigned to it. He is just finishing the second of the series.

The New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is located on Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green and is sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association. □

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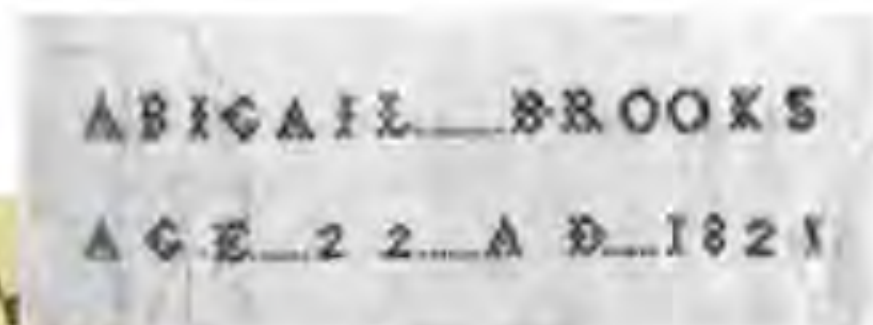
*Historical Society News*

**THE QUILT COMES HOME**

In 1821, New Marlborough resident Abigail Brooks, some of whose brothers fought in the Civil War and are buried in the Huxley Cemetery in Southfield, put the final stitches in a large white quilt with floral patches and signed her name to it in ornate blue letters. When she and her sister, Miara, moved to Trumbull County, Ohio, the quilt went with them. There it remained through successive generations of Brooks descendants until, twenty years ago, reaching the Rochester, New York, home of Miara's great, great, great niece, Kristen Kozody.

Ms. Kozody learned of the quilt's geographical origins through genealogical research and reached out to Judy Thompson, a Historical Society Board member and herself an accomplished genealogist. On July 19, at a reception hosted by Deb O'Brien at the New Marlborough Library, Ms. Kozody arrived, quilt in hand, and presented this priceless artifact to the Historical Society. In three years, the quilt will be two centuries old — begging the question: What is being made today that will last 200 years?

In other news, on July 7, the Society presented a First Friday talk by John Dickson on the early, mostly water-powered industry of Berkshire County. At its height in



*Abigail Brooks carefully stitched her signature into one of the quilt's panels.*

the late the 19th century, the county was bristling with mills, said Mr. Dickson. County-wide, there were 515 manufacturers. They accounted for half of the nation's wool production and a quarter of its paper production. The county's rivers powered 185 sawmills. In New Marlborough alone, there were twenty-seven mills on a stretch of just a mile and a half of the Konkapot River. The rivers, of course, were not navigable, and the lack of a railroad spur was fatal to the industrial vitality of New Marlborough.

For those who missed the talk, a well-illustrated monograph by Mr. Dickson, *Berkshire County's Industrial Heritage*, is available on-line. The next First Friday program, on August 3, will look into the history

of New Marlborough's northern-most village, Hartsville — 7:30 p.m. at the Meeting House Gallery, wine and cheese to follow the talk. □

*Joe Poindexter*



*Kristen Kozody, flanked by Historical Society Board members Claudette Callahan, left and Judy Thompson, explains the origins of the Abigail Brooks quilt. photos by Joe Poindexter*



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## BRIGHT DAY, BRILLIANT GARDENS

After a week of stifling heat and humidity, July 7 dawned in perfect sync with the clear, bright, and blossom-filled Maureen Hosford Garden Tour, sponsored by the New Marlborough Cultural Council. Some sixty people participated in self-guided visits to five gardens, four of them created and maintained by humans, the fifth getting a crucial assist from cows and chickens. On this one, Tom Brazie piloted wagon rides through various meadows of The Farm New Marlborough, as he explained the relationship between his animals and the cultivation of improved pasture land. It was an engaging new addition to a smartly conceived resumption of the garden tour. Proceeds will support the Council's grant program in New Marlborough in the arts, humanities, and natural sciences. □

*Barbara Lowman; photos by Anne Sommers*



*Clockwise from top: The gardens and settings of Brian Mikesell and John Weinstein, Judith Newman and Jeff MacGregor, Carrie Wilkens and Will Regan, Elizabeth and Eugene Rosenberg, and The Farm New Marlborough*





## LAND TRUST NEWS

Fifteen Land Trust volunteers, eager to learn more about the Konkapot River, donated their time and skills to assist the Housatonic Valley Association

(HVA) complete its “stream assessment” of the Konkapot, a tributary of the Housatonic River. Two teams, led by HVA staff, started at the bridge next to the New Marlborough Library — one headed south to Umpachene Falls and the other north to the bridge at the Sisson Mill site. With GPS, data sheets, and cameras in hand, volunteers collected data for “points of interest” — particular river assets, an outsize boulder, for instance, as well as points of concern, such as pipes carrying runoff into the river or growth of invasive species.

Volunteers looked for evidence of wildlife using the river — beaver, kingfishers, and trout — and

made visual observations about the character of the riverbed, land use along the banks, the temperature of the water, locations of human access for recreation. The data will be part of a final Stream Assessment Report issued in October and will be the basis for possible future projects to address and improve the health of the river.

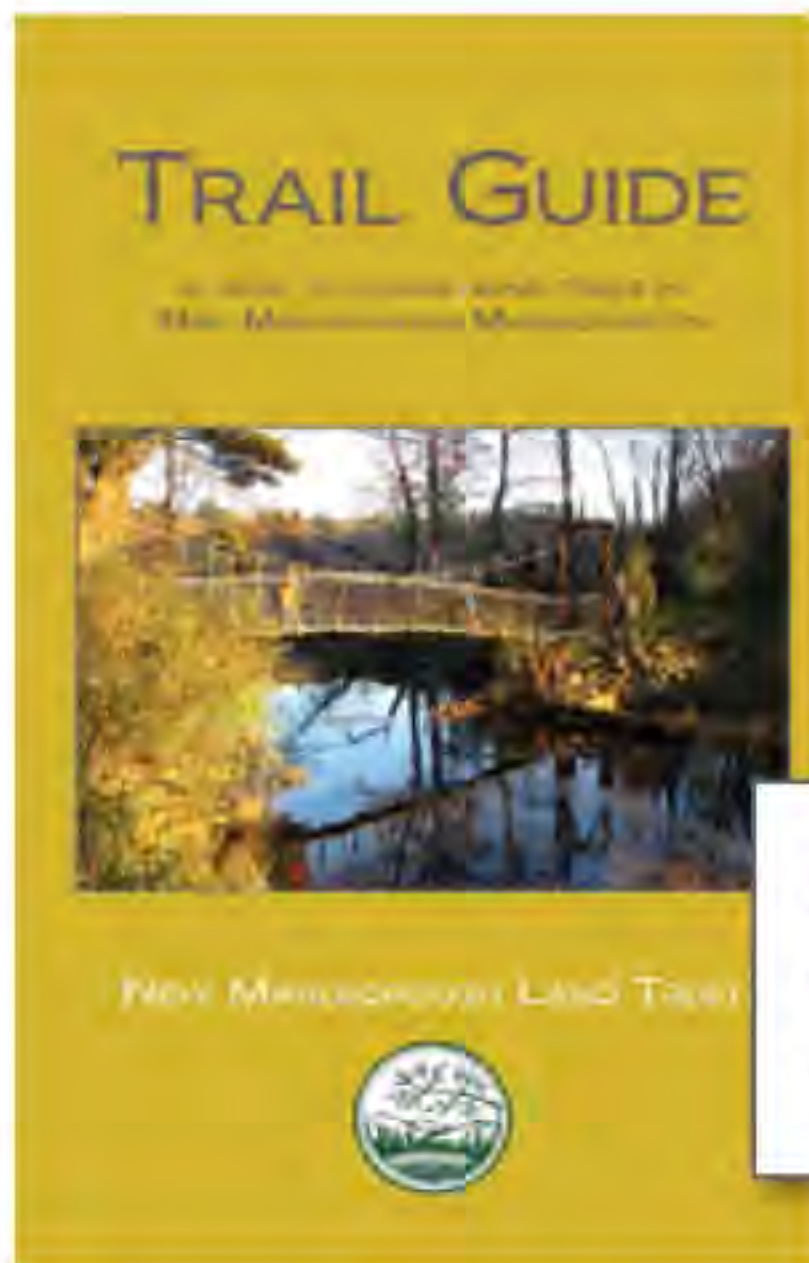
The preliminary assessment from the Land Trust volunteers was loud and clear: the Konkapot is cool and refreshing, beautiful and wild, and a valuable asset to us all. And it feels great on a hot summer day! □

Martha Bryan



photo by Alison Dixon

Volunteers were treated to lunch at Pam and Dick Stebbins after spending the morning collecting data in the Konkapot River.



*The second edition of the Land Trust’s Trail Guide is out and available for sale at the Library, Mill River General Store and other area businesses*

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## BURRITT HONOREE: LOUISE YOHALEM

By Anne Sommers

The next time you drive by our Meeting House, pause and give yourself time to take in its 19th century glory. Note the restored steeple, the new roof and copper dome, the historically correct front steps, the immaculate paint job, and the air-tight windows.

And that's just the outside.

After you take in the wonder of it all, take time to marvel at the talent, dedication, and energy of the volunteer who made it all possible: fundraiser and community leader extraordinaire Louise Yohalem. The New Marlborough Cultural Council is proud to be honoring Louise as the recipient of the 2018 Elihu Burritt Award for Community Service at Elihu Burritt Day on August 18.

Ever since Louise and her husband, Selectman Nat Yohalem, chose to make New Marlborough their new home eleven years ago, the town has reaped rewards from their commitment to public service. "We've always said," Louise explains, "that we get more out of what we do as volunteers than we put into it. My volunteerism led to all of my careers and our volunteer efforts have led to important friendships."

When the Yohalems were ready to retire and leave New Jersey – he from the law and she as the executive director of development for Union County College – they knew they were interested in the southern Berkshires where they already had many friends. "New Marlborough's beauty, in all directions, drew us in," Louise recalls. "And the people we met were wonderful. Plus, there was a rich cultural life."

Owen Hoberman, a law school classmate of Nat's, brought Louise onto the Cultural Council within months of their arrival. Not too long after that, David Hosford wooed Louise into joining the Village Association, where she became president within a year and which she led for the next five and a half years. She has remained on the Cultural Council, twice as co-chairperson, since first joining, except for the required year off after her first six-year term.

In 2009, Louise took on marketing and communications responsibility for the town's 250th anniversary. "It was a wonderful experience because it brought together town residents who come from all walks of life, the whole community," she says. Advertisers' support for the commemorative journal far exceeded expectations, which made the anniversary community dinner affordable for all. The journal was so voluminous that it exceeded the



Louise Yohalem

photo by Larry Burke

capacity of local printers and had to be shipped out of town for printing. "We expected about 250 people to attend the dinner," she recalls happily, "but 450 people came, and we had to have a second tent. It was a wonderful event for the town."

In 2011, the superintendent of schools for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, faced with a declining school population, appointed an Elementary School Task Force, charged with identifying ways the district could better retain students and attract new ones. Louise was recruited to lead the labor-intensive six-month effort, in which representatives from all District member towns, plus David Hastings, then curriculum director and

later District superintendent, met once and later twice a week to identify ways to improve what went on in classrooms and how to better involve parents. Task force members held community meetings in all five District towns and with teachers. It also traveled to Springfield to meet with state officials.

"It's very rewarding to know that the task force's recommendation that all children have access to early pre-kindergarten has become a reality," says Louise. "Research shows that kids who miss out on early childhood education leave school with a lesser vocabulary than students who had that advantage, a disadvantage that continues throughout their education."

A Bronx native whose activism dates back to going door-to-door for Adlai Stevenson as a teenager, Louise is justifiably proud of the renovation of the Meeting House, both inside and out. The structure's interior was just painted for the first time in fifty years. Alterations to the ground-floor Meeting House Gallery included a new

*Continued, page 17*

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## NEIGHBORS



Former town Librarian and long-time Mill River resident **Eleanor “Ellie” Stalker** passed away June 17 at age 94. She last resided at Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing Facility at Barnwell in Valatie, New York.

Ellie retired in 1993, having served for more than thirty years as librarian. In addition, she worked as an aide at the New Marlborough Central School where, notably, she was the last surviving member of the Class of 1942. She also served on both New Marlborough’s Board of Registrars and the Grange.

Known as a tireless literacy advocate, Ellie fostered a love of reading in townsfolk young and old.



photo courtesy of the Stalker family

Eleanor Stalker

Congratulations to **Bob and Tess Fedell** of Sandisfield, but who have close family ties and a business in New Marlborough. They have just become Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technicians. They completed a training course sponsored by the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad and Lee Fire and Rescue, which involved approximately 160 hours of class time and an additional forty hours of practice sessions over a six-month period. To qualify as EMTs after passing the approved training program, they then had to pass a national cognitive exam as well as a practical exam to achieve national recognition. “Strangely enough, Massachusetts doesn’t recognize that certification,” Bob notes, sardonically, “until you pay the state an additional \$150, which magically makes them recognize you as EMTs in the state.”

Next steps? Tess and Bob will respond to calls and provide patient care under the observation of experienced New Marlborough EMTs, who will make the determination that they are ready to respond on their own. They represent two additional First Responders who will provide patient care for New Marlborough. Given the dedication required to complete the training, we welcome these two highly-committed volunteers to the First Responders. □

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



photo by Maureen Krejci

Bob and Tess Fedell

*Louise Yohalem, continued*

kitchen and new lighting. Outside, a new exterior drainage system cured the rain erosion of Route 57

“The Meeting House is New Marlborough’s most prominent historic building,” says Louise. “Now, that the restoration is complete, we know we are leaving it in wonderful shape to serve the needs of future generations. Our community showed how much they value the building through their contributions of almost \$185,000, which was increased by two grants from the Massachusetts Historical Facilities Fund totaling \$87,000.”

“There’s nobody in New Marlborough whose life isn’t enriched by the work of the Cultural Council,” she adds. “We work hard to raise money for programs in the schools, the library, individual artists, and non-profit arts and historical preservation efforts.” In fact, New Marlborough’s is one of the most active councils in the Berkshires, and its fundraising often triples the amount it receives from

the Massachusetts Cultural Council. In addition to grant making, it sponsors the pot luck dinner, the Maureen Hosford Garden Tour, and Elihu Burritt Day.

In addition to all her community work, Louise is known by some for her prodigious output of zucchini bread, which she gives as gifts and serves at town-related meetings of the Village Association, Cultural Council, and Historical Society, whose Board she recently joined. “Last year, I baked sixty loaves over two days from the baseball-bat-sized zucchini that my neighbors brought to me.”

Louise, the mother of two and grandmother of three, is grateful to New Marlborough for taking her and Nat in. “This is my home,” she says. “Things can be replaced, but we could never replace the friends we’ve made here. We were able to come here and make the kind of life we’ve always wanted. Nat and I are so lucky.” □



## FROM FIELD TO FARMER'S MARKET



Farming is not for the impatient or the faint of heart. It's a long road between mid-spring when early blades of grass illuminate morning meadows in carpets of green and the eventual fatted calf. It takes faith, endurance, and the optimism to see past an early summer drought or a marauding bear who invades the chicken coop. By the early 20th century most of New Marlborough's original farmers had moved to deep-soiled stretches of Midwest-

ern acreage. So the return to our challenging landscape by the undaunted likes of Jan Johnson, Liz Goodman, Steve Cunningham, John Miller, and Tom Brazie is a special blessing. Here Tom Brazie bales hay for his livestock on a neighbor's field, the end product of which winds up at the Saturday morning Farmer's Market on the New Marlborough Village Green. □

Joe Poindexter, photos by Larry Burke

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#### August 25 2:00 p.m. Tanglewood Marionettes

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#### September 8 TENET: Vocal Artists Uno+One

TENET's featured sopranos Jolle Greenleaf and Molly Quinn collaborate with harpsichordist Jeffrey Grossman and theorist Adam Cockerham. The repertoire of UNO + ONE: Italia Nostra focuses on the revolutionary breakthroughs in vocal style that were championed by Claudio Monteverdi and his contemporaries.

#### September 15 Gilles Vonsattel, Pianist

An artist of extraordinary versatility and originality, and with an enormous range of repertoire, Gilles Vonsattel performs Brahms, Beethoven, Benjamin, Webern, and Schumann.

#### September 22 Neave Trio

The Neave Trio has performed on numerous concert series and festivals worldwide, including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center/La Jolla Music Society. They return to New Marlborough with a program of Haydn, Schumann, and Shostakovich.

#### September 29 Paul Green and his Band

Groundbreaking Clarinetist Paul Green and his band "Two Worlds" present a program of Jazz, Klezmer, and Sephardic music. The similarities and differences between the three genres are explored, and in some cases, combined! An exciting fusion of styles results from the common ground of artistic passion and fervor.

#### October 6 Award-Winning Authors with Host Simon Winchester

Simon Winchester interviews guest **Ian Buruma**, editor of the *New York Review of Books*.

**Art Show in the Meeting House Gallery: Boundaries**

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## NM DEMS GET ORGANIZED

Meeting for the first time in a decade, The New Marlborough Democratic Committee, under the guidance of Joyce Hackett, caucused Sunday morning, July 22, in the Meeting House to plot a course of action for the upcoming election season. Its first priority: getting non-registered voters in town registered. Residents can register during business hours at Town Hall, **but they must do so**

**by August 15 to be eligible to vote in the September 3 state primary.** You don't need to declare a party affiliation to vote in the primary. Further planning and decisions of whom to endorse for state and federal offices, if any, will take place at the committee's next meeting at 7:00 p.m., August 1, downstairs in the Town Hall. All wishing to aid the Democratic Party are welcome. □

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

**August 3: A History of Hartsville**, the fame, fortune, and the flood of New Marlborough's northern-most village; a First Friday program sponsored by the New Marlborough Historical Society, free and open to the public, 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting House Gallery, wine and cheese to follow the program

**August 4: White Elephant Collection for Burritt Day**, at the Rooney House (opposite The Farm New Marlborough) on New Marlborough Southfield Road, 10:00 a.m. to noon

**August 11: Final White Elephant Collection for Burritt Day**, at the Rooney House (opposite The Farm New Marlborough) on New Marlborough Southfield Road, 10:00 a.m. to noon

**August 18: Elihu Burritt Day**, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the New Marlborough Village Green, followed by the Fire Department Pig Roast, 5:00 p.m. to when the band goes home, at the Firehouse in Southfield Village

**August 25: Tanglewood Marionettes** brings Hansel and Gretel to life with large, hand-crafted marionettes; 2:00 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House with SoCo Creamery ice cream after the performance; \$5 for adults, \$10 for the entire family — the season's first Music and More program

**August 31: New Marlborough Artists**, opening reception for the season's final show at the Meeting House Gallery with wine and hors d'oeuvres, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., on view Saturdays and Sundays (not Fridays) 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until October 7

**September 8: TENET Vocal Artists**, singers Joelle Greenleaf and Molly Quinn, joined by harpsichordist Jeffrey Grossman and theorbist Adam Cockerham, perform pre-Baroque music of the Italian renaissance; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House, with a reception in the gallery following the performance; \$25, \$20 for members of the Village Association

**September 15: Pianist Gilles Vonsattel** performs works by Brahms, Beethoven, Webern, Schumann, and George Benjamin; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House, with a reception in the gallery following the performance; \$25, \$20 for members of the Village Association

**September 22: the Naeve Trio**, violinist Anna Williams, cellist Mikhail Veselov, and pianist Eri Nakamura play works by Haydn, Schumann, and Shostakovich; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House, with a reception in the gallery following the performance; \$25, \$20 for members of the Village Association

**September 29: Paul Green and his Two Worlds Band** presents a program of jazz, klezmer and sephardic music; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House, with a reception in the gallery following the performance; \$25, \$20 for members of the Village Association



## OUR TOWN'S FUTURE

*The third in a series on the challenges and opportunities we face as we strive for a socially and economically robust community, this month's essay is from Steven Klein, who is chairman of the Finance Committee and a member of the recently dissolved Broadband Committee.*

### Three Building Blocks — Four Foundations

By Steven Klein

Change is inevitable in our town, even if it doesn't feel that way sometimes. As a small, rural community, we are not entirely in control of our destiny, reliant as we are on regional economics, state and national policy, and politics and demographics. But if we can gain a common understanding of that external reality, we can increase our control of its impact. But how do we do that? I have a few thoughts:

**Lay the groundwork for a shared sense of community:** We are a diverse community. Part-timers, full-timers, working families, retirees, long-timers, and more recent arrivals. While we will not always agree on the best course of action, we can all agree that we want our town to adjust to changing circumstances and do our best to preserve the things we love about being here.

The first tenet of building this shared sense of community is open, public communications. Our town website could use a good refreshing, and while town news coverage by the *SVN*, *Berkshire Edge*, *Berkshire Record*, and *Berkshire Eagle* has improved of late, more would be better. On-line forums have their plusses and minuses (not everyone has access, misinformation can proliferate, etc.). But if we take advantage of our resources to share information that is as factual as possible, we can elevate the discussion and do more to find productive solutions to common problems.

**Plan ahead:** With better information and some shared principles, we can address issues before they rise to a level of controversy, or worse, crisis. Planning and land use, education, revenue enhancement, highway planning, among others, all present significant challenges for the town and will continue to do so in the future. It isn't enough to react to events; we need to think ahead and plan ahead. And we need more involvement from the community to do so.



Steven Klein

**Inclusion is critical:** We are too small a town to allow ourselves to be factionalized. We may differ on specifics to be sure, but we must find ways to work together for the common good. Folks need to volunteer (part-timers—this includes you!) and share their views and expertise. Our town's full-time staff and its elected officials can't cover all the bases by themselves, nor should they. They would all be happy to get some help (and not just comments from the peanut gallery) from community members.

So if we can make progress in how we work together, what should we devote our attention to over the next decade? No list is all-inclusive, but here are some big ones:

#### **Education**

#### **Telecommunications**

#### **Open space and land use planning**

#### **Tax base maintenance and revenue enhancement**

**Education:** No single issue is more important to the survival of our community. If we expect young families to choose to live here, we must provide a vibrant, up-to-date educational experience for children. Our district is small, and, by definition, that makes it expensive to provide the quality education we need. Discussions are already underway regarding the possibilities for merging our regional district with Monument Mountain Regional, but a solution is a ways off. And remember, while children are the primary recipients of a quality education, home owners also benefit: property values increase in direct proportion to the number of folks who find our town attractive.

**Telecommunications:** At long last, a solution to our lack of affordable high speed internet has been identified and will be operational in the next



two years. But this is not the end of our problems participating in the modern media world. Cell service continues to be spotty at best around town. New cell technology (called 5G) is arriving and we need to make sure that we stay up to date. Rural communities across the country are struggling with these issues and we must stay vigilant.

**Open space and land use planning:** The need to balance the rights of individual property owners with the needs of the community to maintain its beauty and character will entail difficult compromise and creative thinking. We must balance the benefits of open space (beauty) with its costs (lower tax revenues). We must help to preserve our agriculture as local farmers struggle to survive. We must provide space for new residents to build homes without crowding. And we must find ways to allow productive industrial, technological, and service businesses to locate and operate without impinging on our community and its residents. We have struggled with these issues in the past several years, and they are not likely to go away. We need to look ahead not behind; plan not react. Zoning is not intrinsically restrictive. It simply provides a framework for what the future can look like.

**Tax base maintenance and revenue enhancement:** In the end, all of this will cost money, and when many in our town already struggle with the property tax burden, every dollar counts. While costs may continue to rise, we cannot continue to do things just because we have always done them that way. We must look at cost savings wherever we can find them, and we must look for new sources of revenues. We must be both bold and hard-nosed. There are no sacred cows. Costs must be justified. Our town, small though it is, can run better. We need to find ways to see that it does.

So how will New Marlborough look in a dozen years? Probably much the same as it does now; after all, we've been here for a long time. But let's work to create a robust, inclusive community where all voices are heard, where all opinions are considered, where all ideas are evaluated, and where everyone participates in making sound decisions based on facts and shared values. That will be a New Marlborough circa 2030 that we can all be proud of. ❖



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# THE LOG

## Police Department (selected entries)

- Jun. 1 12:00 p.m. A resident requests that a speed sign be posted on Hartsville New Marlborough Road to curb motorists speeding past his property.
- 4:52 p.m. A motorist alerts the Department to the driver of a red Audi who has, more than once, sped past her, crossing a double yellow line, on Route 57. An officer later follows up with a visit to the owner of a vehicle fitting this description.
- 6:10 p.m. A driver reports damage to his truck from a low-hanging branch on Brewer Hill Road.
- Jun. 2 11:12 a.m. Tree on wires on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 2:41 p.m. A cell phone lost on Old North Road the previous week is located in Great Barrington via pinging.
- Jun. 3 5:29 p.m. Hartsville resident reports hearing shots fired in the vicinity of Hatchery Road.
- Jun. 4 2:31 p.m. A Clayton Mill River Road resident reports a demand for payment from someone impersonating an IRS officer.
- Jun. 7 7:25 p.m. The driver of a vehicle parked in a travel lane on Norfolk Road, who tells an officer she is writing a letter to a friend, is instructed to park her car off the roadway.
- Jun. 10 9:10 p.m. Motorist reports hitting a deer on Norfolk Road.
- Jun. 11 8:08 a.m. Two people are injured when a pickup truck in which they are riding hits a utility pole on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 2:52 p.m. Responding to a call from a Mill River Great Barrington Road resident, an officer discovers a firework inside a mailbox at the residence.
- Jun. 13 2:55 p.m. Animal Control officer is called to remove a wounded raccoon from a Knight Road property.
- Jun. 14 1:37 p.m. After reporting that a wallet was stolen from a vehicle parked at the Mill River General Store, the owner calls back to say that the wallet was, in fact, found inside the car.
- 5:08 p.m. Tree down on Canaan Southfield Road.
- Jun. 15 12:11 p.m. Animal control officer called after a Labrador retriever is found running loose on Rhoades and Bailey Road.
- Jun. 16 11:07 a.m. A resident is told to extinguish an open fire at his property on Hayes Hill Road.
- 11:13 a.m. An East Hill Road resident reports that someone is removing wood into a Connecticut-registered vehicle near his property.
- 4:06 p.m. A commercial tow truck is called to remove a car abandoned in a travel lane on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- 11:55 p.m. Officer persuades a bear rummaging through a dumpster on Norfolk Road to move along.
- Jun. 18 6:25 p.m. Animal Control Officer called to relocate a family of skunks that have taken up residence under the porch of a Hayes Hill Road residence.
- 7:55 p.m. Tree on wires on New Marlborough Branch Road.
- 8:22 p.m. Tree on wires on North Road.
- 8:45 p.m. Tree on wires on Hotchkiss Road.
- 10:07 p.m. Tree on wires on Brewer Hill Road.
- Jun. 19 9:43 a.m. After receiving a report of a dead deer on Mill River Great Barrington Road, an officer calls the Highway Department for removal.
- Jun. 20 10:45 a.m. National Grid is called to remove a tree leaning against a utility pole on Sisson Hill Road.
- 4:24 p.m. A resident reports loose cows grazing at her Norfolk Road property.
- Jun. 21 8:21 a.m. Caller reports she struck a deer on Route 57 on her drive to work.
- 6:02 p.m. A Connecticut driver, stopped for a number plate violation on Hartsville New Marlborough Road and found to be operating an unregistered, uninsured vehicle and in possession of drugs, is arrested.
- Jun. 23 4:07 p.m. Officer, investigating a report of gun shots on Campbell Falls Road, determines they are coming from a target practice session.



- 11:37 p.m. A Southfield village resident complains of loud noise from a party at a next-door neighbor.
- Jun. 25 9:30 a.m. A Mill River resident reports that her iPhone 8, stolen from the New Marlborough Meeting House six days ago, had been activated in the Pittsfield area over the previous weekend.
- 5:10 p.m. A resident reports four baby raccoons on New Marlborough Hill Road.

- Jun. 29 2:15 p.m. Tree down on wires on Hartsville New Marlborough Road, causing a closure between New Marlborough Hill and Adsit Crosby Roads.  
*Graham Frank, Chief of Police*

## Fire and Rescue

- |         |            |  |         |            |  |
|---------|------------|--|---------|------------|--|
| June 6  | 4:14 p.m.  | Hartsville New Marlborough Road MVA          | June 19 | 2:14 p.m.  | Juniper Hill Road CO Alarm                         |
| June 8  | 2:29 p.m.  | Mutual Aid to Monterey Missing Person Search | June 20 | 6:58 a.m.  | Norfolk Road Medical Call                          |
| June 9  | 9:11 a.m.  | Peter Menaker Road Medical Call              | June 20 | 4:48 p.m.  | Corser Hill Road Fire Alarm                        |
| June 11 | 8:11 a.m.  | Hartsville New Marlborough Road MVA          | June 23 | 10:17 p.m. | Hayes Hill Road Medical Call                       |
| June 12 | 12:21 a.m. | Hatchery Road Medical Call                   | June 22 | 6:38 a.m.  | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call       |
| June 13 | 8:53 a.m.  | Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call       | June 24 | 11:49 a.m. | North Road Fire Alarm                              |
| June 13 | 8:38 p.m.  | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call | June 26 | 3:42 p.m.  | Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Standby     |
| June 15 | 9:15 a.m.  | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call | June 26 | 6:52 p.m.  | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm         |
| June 16 | 2:58 p.m.  | Hartsville Mill River Road Medical Call      | June 26 | 7:31 p.m.  | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call       |
| June 16 | 11:31 p.m. | New Marlborough Hill Road Fire Alarm         | June 28 | 4:10 a.m.  | New Marlborough Sandisfield Center Road Fire Alarm |
| June 18 | 8:18 p.m.  | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Wires Down   | June 28 | 4:35 p.m.  | New Marlborough Sandisfield Center Road Fire Alarm |
| June 18 | 8:26 p.m.  | North Road Wires Down                        | June 29 | 2:02 p.m.  | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Wires Down         |
| June 18 | 10:09 p.m. | Brewer Hill Road Wires Down                  | June 29 | 10:39 p.m. | Mill River Great Barrington Road Fire Alarm        |
- Fire Company President David Smith*

## ANIMAL INSPECTOR'S WARNING

### *Bears Galore!*

Animal Inspector Prudence Spaulding reports that New Marlborough seems to be the home of an increasing number of bears that are posing a definite danger to chickens and young lambs. One local farmer watched a bear climb out of his fenced-in chicken yard, having eaten two chickens. Farmers need to be aware of these hungry fellows (and gals), and take additional steps to protect their livestock. □



*If only all bears restricted themselves to rubber chickens*



Highway Department News**SMOOTH ROAD AHEAD**

Okay, so you are probably not in the market for a new road grader. But if you were, you would want to consider not only cost but size, parts availability, winter use, and, perhaps most importantly, how to negotiate the price. These are a few of the factors that faced Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring when the Town voted the department \$325,000 for a new grader to replace the current equipment, which was made by Dresser Industries, a company that has left the grader business and no longer provides parts.

For Mr. Loring, the options came down to units manufactured by John Deere and Caterpillar. Deere's graders are all larger than what is needed by the town, so Mr. Loring went for a Cat 120M, a twenty-ton, all-wheel-drive machine that comes with a full snowplow package. Its sticker price is \$498,000, but a pre-bid negotiating process joined by the state Department of Transportation knocked the cost down to its budgeted \$325,000. All in all, it's quite a beast, but with a fully enclosed cabin, it might actually be comfortable. The department expects delivery by next January.

Meanwhile, in July and August the Highway Department is putting down a second course of asphalt on the Mill Great Barrington Road. It was



The Highway Department's newest Roads Scholars: Pete Wilson (top) and Bill Ruane. photos by Joe Poindexter



On order: a Cat 120M

repaved last year, but the base course is porous; a second coat will make it waterproof. It is also re-coating South Sandisfield Road from New Marlborough village to the Transfer Station. The road was last paved thirteen years ago. Its big-ticket project this summer is a resurfacing of about a mile of Norfolk Road. The department has already replaced some fourteen culverts. Next, it will peel off up to a foot of the present roadway, grind it up and lay it back down, and then cover it with a base course of asphalt.

Finally, the highway crew is acquiring more parchment: Bill Ruane and Pete Wilson have recently been named Roads Scholars, a distinction earned after the completion of seven seminars presented by the Baystate Roads Program. They join Chuck Loring and Paul Krom, both Master Roads Scholars, in recognition of their advanced road maintenance skills and knowledge. At this rate, the department office is going to run out of wall space for the display of certificates. □

Joe Poindexter

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# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This month's recipe comes from Jess Schaeffer, a relative newcomer to New Marlborough. Jess, her husband Eric, and their three children moved here a year ago from New York's Capital District to be closer to Eric's work. They were originally looking in neighboring counties, but when their search brought them to New Marlborough, Jess said, they instantly felt connected with the town and its people. "This is such a beautiful, wonderful place, and we are so happy to be raising our family here! Everything about this town is special and we are grateful to be a part of it," she says.

After the move, Jess changed careers, from teaching high school to helping Tom Brazie at The Farm New Marlborough. She can regularly be spotted in local fields moving fences around for the chickens.

About her carnitas, Jess says, "This recipe is a crowd favorite – there is so much that you can do with it. Our family loves it in tacos, enchiladas, burritos, and quesadillas. They add a little spice to the 'Taco Tuesdays' or 'Fiesta Fridays' we enjoy in our house. Serve with limes, avocado, cheese, or just a salad. Fortunately, many of the ingredients are likely already in your pantry or garden. The the rest can be purchased right here in New Marlborough!"



Photo by Jessica Holcomb

Jess and daughter Adela find ingredients for their carnitas recipe at the Mill River General Store.

Fiona Kerr

## Jess Schaeffer's Slow Cooker Carnitas

### Ingredients:

- 4 lbs boneless, skinless pork shoulder
- 1½ Tbsp salt
- 2 tsp pepper
- 2 onions, chopped
- 8 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 jalapeño peppers, deseeded and chopped
- 4 oranges, squeezed (juice only) or 1½ cups orange juice

### Spice Rub:

- 2 Tbsp oregano
- 4 Tbsp cumin
- 2 Tbsp olive oil

### Directions:

- Rinse and dry the pork shoulder and rub with salt and pepper.
- Combine spice rub ingredients and rub all over the pork.
- Place in a slow cooker and top with the onions, jalapenos, and garlic, then pour the orange juice over it.
- Cook on low for 10 hours (or on high for 6 hours).
- Remove from the slow cooker, let cool for a few minutes, and shred with a fork.
- Next, skim the fat off of the juices in the slow cooker and discard. Reserve the juices (at least 2 cups, but more if you wish).
- Spread about a quarter of the shredded pork in a frying pan, drizzle some of the juice over it, and place over medium heat until the bottom is brown and crusty. Turn and briefly sear the other side (but don't let it get too crispy). Repeat until you have browned all the pork.
- Just before serving, drizzle with juices and place in tacos, enchiladas, or in a salad with a squeeze of lime juice, slices of avocado, and cheese. Enjoy!

nm5vn.org

## Thank You to Our Contributors

Steve & Donna Peltier; Gregory Kerr; Michael Skrak; Alexandra Eidenschenk; Jill Graham & Jim Kelly; and Janet Brown



# NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

## Adult Fiction

*There There*, by Tommy Orange  
*The Lost for Words Bookshop*, by Stephanie Butland  
*Lying in Wait*, by Liz Nugent  
*The President Is Missing*, by Bill Clinton and James Patterson  
*Calypso*, by David Sedaris

## Adult Nonfiction

*Lincoln's Last Trial: The Murder Case That Propelled Him to the Presidency*, by Dan Abrams

## Children's Fiction

*How Do Dinosaurs Learn To Read*, by Jane Yolen  
*Aquarium*, by Cynthia Alonso  
*Possum and the Summer Storm*, by Anne Hunter  
*Everything You Need for a Treehouse*, by Carter Higgins  
*Sometimes You Fly*, by Katherine Applegate

## Children's Nonfiction

*The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs*, by Kate Messner  
*Explorer Dinosaurs!*, by Nick Forshaw  
*A Frog's Life*, by Irene Kelly  
*A House in the Sky and Other Uncommon Animal Homes*, by Steve Jenkins

## Books on CD

*Us Against You*, by Fredrick Backman  
*The President Is Missing*, by Bill Clinton and James Patterson

## DVDs

*The Americans Season 4*      *The Coroner Season 1*  
*Endeavour Season 5*      *Marvel's The Avengers*



Join the New Marlborough Library August 14 at 7:00 p.m. for the third film in our documentary film series - *Dancing in Jaffa*. Renowned ballroom dancer Pierre Dulaine brings his popular Dancing Classrooms program to three diverse, Jaffa-based schools where he teaches ballroom basics to the ethnically mixed population of children.



Dulaine selects the most focused dancers to train for a citywide competition, pairing Palestinians with Jews, putting many of the children and, more pointedly, their families' beliefs to the test. Exploring the complex stories of three different children who are forced to confront issues of identity, segregation, and racial prejudice as they dance with their historical archenemies, Hilla Medalia's *Dancing in Jaffa* is a sweet and incredibly moving tale filled with moments of truth, poignancy, and humor, and offering a glimmer of hope in an intractable conflict. Space is limited - please RSVP to: [newmarlborough@gmail.com](mailto:newmarlborough@gmail.com) or 229-6668


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 Thurs. 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.



**New Marlborough Friends of the Library is looking for pie bakers for our annual bake sale at Elihu Burritt Day, August 18.**  
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### Town Times

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

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

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

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

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

**Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. - noon

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

**Building Inspector:** Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

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

**Post Office: Mill River** (413) 229-8582

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

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

**Southfield** (413) 229-8476

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

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

(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.

**Tax Collector:** Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

**Dog and Animal Control Officer:** John Springstube 413-232-7038

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

**Town Hall:** 229-8116

**Police:** Business office: 229-8161

### Transfer Station Hours:

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

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

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

### PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1

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### New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

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*We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.*

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

### NM5VN Editorial Team

Joe Poindexter, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;  
Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke, Barbara Lowman,  
David Lowman, Jodi Rothe, Peter Schuyten,  
Barry Shapiro, Pam Stebbins, Sandra Fusco-Walker  
Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger,  
Angus Kerr, Mary Richie Smith, Catherine Twing,  
Tara White, and Michele Shalaby. Index: Donna Weaver

### New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

**also online at [www.nm5vn.org](http://www.nm5vn.org)**

The next issue will be dated September 2018.

All copy must be submitted no later than August 17.

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

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- **Reiner White:** General Contractor; (413)229-8450
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To list your business here, contact Barbara Lowman (413)229-2369