



# New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

## GREENAGERS AT APRIL HILL FARM:

### *Giving Back to the Land and Community through Service*

by Robbi Hartt

Instructions for building and nurturing a program with purpose: Take a group of local teens. Give them training in the trades. Teach them how to care for a farm on a quiet country road with amazing mountain views. Establish programs to address food scarcity and fuel scarcity, provide alternatives to Covid hybrid learning. Teach responsibility, collaboration, community service, connection to the land. Add two inspiring global musicians with a career-long friendship, put up the tent, pray for a break from the storm, and pull off a milestone event that will never be forgotten.

This is what Greenagers executive director Will Conklin and deputy director Samantha Suters have done, with the help of their Greenagers staff, volunteers, supporters, and program participants. Although the skies opened



*Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax with Will Conklin at April Hill Farm*

Photo by Felix Carroll

violently on July 15 in the late afternoon, the storms subsided to early evening cloud swirls and remained calm until the musicians' last notes were played. By the end of the evening, Greenagers had raised \$140,000.

Samantha Halley Suters, a twelve-year Mill River resident, first started working with Greenagers in 2009. "I've actually been good friends with Will since school days at Mount Everett," she notes. When Will received funding to hire an assistant, she quickly applied. Samantha, who describes their twelve-year partnership as a "wonderful, exciting time," explains that her involvement as office manager grew into head of development as the organization grew. Although she had a background in nonprofit work (grant writing and donor management) prior to Greenagers, she describes her involvement as based on both a passion for Greenagers and a desire to work with Will. "I've learned — and continue to learn — so much through my work at Greenagers. It's one of the things I love about my job and keeps me on my toes."

"Our donors come to us mostly through direct experience with a Greenagers program or by word of mouth," she explains, adding, "Press and social media help, too, for sure!" While galas and other fundraising events were impossible during the pandemic, Samantha notes, "We have been amazed by the generosity of our donors and community members. It really feels like everyone stepped up in a very big way to ensure that community service and support programs continued to run and had the help they needed to thrive and serve the community."

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*continued*



*Greenagers, continued*

It is impossible to overstate how their fundraising efforts were catapulted by the once-in-a-lifetime Yo-Yo Ma/Emanuel Ax performance in mid-July. The event came about when board member Peter Whitehead (owner of the construction company, Peter D. Whitehead Builder, LLC and friend of Mr. Ma) was working at the cellist's home this spring. Asked what his son Yuri was up to workwise, Peter explained that he worked for Greenagers, leading the Pathways to the Trades program. Mr. Ma's interest was piqued, and he immediately proposed that he and pianist Emanuel Ax do a benefit concert at April Hill Farm in the summer. "We felt very, very lucky!" Samantha smiles.

In his program notes for the concert Mr. Ma explains, "Greenagers is a cultural organization, and I think what culture does is transmit useful knowledge that helps people in times of need, and it only works when it's received and activated. I think that's the principle of what Greenagers does, and what attracted us to the organization is that it's precisely what we do with music." "Young people are interested in doing stuff," Emanuel Ax adds. "Greenagers provides the opportunity to channel that inclination and thereby strengthen community."

Will Conklin considers the concert "a consecration of our new home here at April Hill as well as an imperative to remember that education, community, and culture kept us together and a directive to take the best of these forward." He believes it is no accident that the words culture and cultivate come from the same root—cultura, or growing. Will asserts, "The culture we strive to create

at Greenagers is about growth, not in a simple, linear movement, but one that creates a strong network of fibers out of the rich humous of community support, with the knowledge that our hands can do amazing work so long as our hearts are also in the right place."

As a musician and humanitarian, Yo-Yo Ma (inspired by cellist Pablo Casals) strives to "reach for the unimaginable and work together to make it happen" — an idea that characterizes Will Conklin's vision for Greenagers and April Hill Farm as well. Conklin's commitment to cultivating hard skills, a stewardship impulse, and faith in humanity are evident in every person you meet at the farm. The indescribable natural beauty of the 100-acre farm, deep dedication of the staff and volunteers, life-altering impact of inspiring teens and investing in their futures,

and a carefully-tuned ear to the needs of the surrounding community are all a testament to the importance of their collective efforts.

Talking with the staff and volunteers at Greenagers as the first vegetable harvest is being gathered is as soul-quenching as walking in the rich soil. Sarah Monteiro, who previously owned a flower farm in Columbia County, shares how once the pandemic hit, they realized how "absolutely necessary it was to become innovative very quickly" to ensure food distribution across all classes. "We put aside other plans and scrambled to get food growing and distributed to meet the acute needs in our local community, both among those who have had needs and among those who have never before experienced scarcity," she says, noting that the new realities



*Samantha and Jon Sutera with their children*

*photo courtesy of Samantha Sutera*

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forced the door for innovation open. Turning fields into farms became more urgent as grocery supply chains were drastically depleted because of the growing number of residents, and grocery costs rose to new heights. Linked with those needs was a desire for better nutrition and living more closely to the land. "It's important that we return another way," she stresses, "that we carry what we've learned from the pandemic with us." She led by example, leaving her own flower farm business in order to head the April Hill Farm Program, which supplies vegetables and herbs to the local community through Berkshire Bounty and People's Pantry (both in Great Barrington).

What do Samantha and Will plan to do next in terms of fundraising and program development? "Since our 2019 purchase of April Hill Conservation and Education Center (formerly Kellogg Conservation Center), the possibilities for program growth and development seem endless!" Samantha responds. "We have hugely expanded the food and farm arm of Greenagers and will soon have a community wood bank up and running. The trails program continues to grow, as we partner with land trusts and stewardship organizations across the county and also

across the border in Connecticut and New York. Our program staff are developing site-specific curricula for all ages, so that we can offer schools and visiting groups a rich experience of land stewardship and education right at April Hill."

Greenagers has partnered with New Marlborough Land Trust, New Marlborough Cultural Council, Flying Cloud, and The Farm New Marlborough on various projects (through its farm, trail, and education programs) and a number of New Marlborough kids have participated in Greenagers programming in one way or another. Sandrine Harris, Mill River resident, is partnering with Greenagers for a Mindfulness Workshop series for healing and connection in August. In all, Greenagers partners with twenty-six local organizations!

Looking out at the night sky stretched above the farm and surrounding hills, the distant light promises a bright future for the next generation and asks each of us to "reach for the unimaginable and work together to make it happen." To learn more about how you can help Greenagers grow, contact Samantha Suters at [www.greenagers.org](http://www.greenagers.org). □

## THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CHALLENGE

Heartfelt thanks to all who have helped Construct shoulder the additional load caused by Covid-19. With your help, Construct has provided more than \$200,000 in crisis rental assistance, keeping tenants and landlords afloat. Now, we need to dive into the systemic challenges faced by those who don't have a place they can afford to live. Tonya (not her real name), for example, loves her job at The Center for Motivation and Change despite a ninety-minute commute. Even though she is satisfied with her income, almost 60 percent of it goes to housing and transportation.

If we had any affordable housing in New Marlborough, Tonya would be more likely to advance in her career and meet the needs of one of our biggest employers. She has said she would eventually love to buy a house and raise her family here. Tonya is not alone. I know there are similar stories among the employees at all our favorite restaurants. Rentals comprise 12 percent of our current housing stock, and more than 35 percent of our county's residents are burdened by housing costs.

Too many New Marlborough homeowners struggle as well, with 18 percent facing unsustainable housing costs and 14 percent spending more than half of their income on housing. The need for affordable housing here has been obvious for years. In 2009, the Town of New Marlborough Comprehensive Plan raised the issue of an increasing older population and homogenous housing stock. It recommended "that the town consider expanding building types to increase housing options that will

allow individuals and families to move to or remain in the town as well as downsize their living spaces."

A Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's 2020 report found that "from 2010 to 2018, the median age of those living in New Marlborough increased to 56 from 48.9, and over the same period the age cohort of those 65 and up increased 35 percent while those 19 and younger fell by 42 percent." Our town must face these issues to remain vibrant.

Construct has some answers to these systemic challenges: We can convert existing unused inns and larger homes into studio apartments. We can bring blighted properties up to code and sell them affordably. With private and town investment we can build new affordable housing to the scale that works for New Marlborough. Is New Marlborough ready to embrace a "yes in my backyard" stance for the good of our whole community?

Construct's vision has long been that a community thrives when all members thrive, including essential workers and our most vulnerable neighbors. I know my neighbors here in New Marlborough, and I think we are up to the challenge.

For more information about Construct, go to [Constructinc.org](http://Constructinc.org). More information about the New Marlborough Housing Commission is available at the Town's website, [newmarlboroughma.gov.org](http://newmarlboroughma.gov.org). □

*Elizabeth Rosenberg, Board President, Construct;  
Chair, New Marlborough Housing Committee*



## Town Business Is Your Business

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**June 28:** Hiring building commissioner; Town appointments; contract renewals for the highway superintendent, fire chief, and town administration; applying for American Rescue Plan funds; an air conditioning and heating proposal for the Town Hall office; contract extension for heavy equipment rental services; Board of Selectmen summer schedule.

With all three selectmen still attending remotely via Zoom, the first order of business was to discuss Building Department staffing and specifically the hiring of a building commissioner. But as of tonight's meeting **the Board had no candidates in view. Selectman Mark Carson said he has been making calls to identify viable candidates, but so far without any luck:** "I made calls to three inspectors, but nobody called back. And that's pretty much it."

As previously reported, Interim Building Commissioner Don Torrico resigned earlier this month after the Board refused to give him a full year's appointment. Nevertheless, he applied for the job after it was posted, but the Board, not surprisingly, offered it to another candidate, Larry Gould of East Otis, but then in a surprise move, Mr. Gould turned them down. Meanwhile, summer building projects are accumulating with no one available to inspect them. As Board Chairman Richard Long said, "We're just not prepared to take immediate action." Noting that it's construction season, he conceded that "we need to get somebody in place soon." So the Board agreed to meet in special session on Thursday, immediately before a joint meeting with the Finance Committee, with Mr. Long saying, "We'll come back and try to make things happen between now and then."

Turning to its next agenda item, the Board began what one selectman described as a series of housekeep-

ing actions. The first of these was the **annual review of Town officer appointments including members of the various Town boards and committees.** In almost all cases these were reappointments of people who were willing to serve again. Their terms run from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

There were some eighty appointments in all, but it was also noted there are about a dozen vacancies that need to be filled, as well as a number of current officials who haven't been heard from yet. As to the vacant positions, the Board agreed to put together a list and send it out over the Town's News and Notices email blast to generate interest.

The Board also voted to approve stipends for the following positions:

ADA Coordinator	\$1,500
Alternate Building Inspector	\$50 per inspection
Animal Control Officer	\$6,000
Animal Inspector	\$3,500
Board of Health Agent	\$3,560
Constable, Elections	\$14 per hour
Conservation Commission Clerk	\$75 per month
Election Worker	\$13.50 per hour
Election Warden	\$14.50 per hour
Emergency Management Director	\$4,450
Planning Board Clerical	\$50 per meeting
Historical Commission Clerical	\$50 per meeting
Finance Committee Clerical	\$50 per meeting



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From there the Board moved on to **approving employment contracts** for Town Administrator Mari Enoch and Highway Superintendent and Fire Chief Chuck Loring. As Mr. Long noted, these are essentially the same as last year's contracts, slightly modified to update the dates and compensation amounts -- \$49,007 for Ms. Enoch and \$77,737 for Mr. Loring, plus a \$10,000 stipend for Mr. Loring in his role as fire chief.

The Board also amended Police Chief Graham Frank's three-year contract to give him the 4.5 percent increase called for in the compensation study conducted last spring rather than the 3 percent called for in his contract.

Finally, at Mr. Long's suggestion, the Board approved new language for the supervision clause in the appendices to both the highway superintendent's and police chief's agreements to say that they **both work under "the ultimate authority of the Board of Selectmen acting through the town administrator for day-to-day operations."** They also modified the duties and responsibilities language in the appendices to the town administrator's contract to say she manages and coordinates "day-to-day operations of all departments under the ultimate control of the Board of Selectmen."

Moving on, the Board voted to **authorize Ms. Enoch to apply for funds on the Town's behalf from the American Rescue Plan**, the Biden Administration's

\$1.7 trillion program passed by Congress earlier this year to combat the pandemic. The legislation includes \$65.1 billion in direct, flexible aid to every county in the country.

Under the program the Town could be eligible for as much as \$435,806. However, the grants are highly restricted as to what the money can be used for. Nevertheless, Mr. Long said somewhat hopefully that "although it's not totally defined, there might be some options for us to go after money for low-income housing rehabilitation and to improve broadband."

The Board conditionally approved a proposal from Monterey electrician Mike Leining to install a heat pump, condenser unit and duct work to **provide heating and air conditioning to the lower office area of Town Hall.** The estimated price is \$15,450. However, under state procurement rules, the job will have to be posted for several weeks on Commbuys, the state's online procurement platform

for possible competitive bids before the selectmen can formally approve Mr. Leining's proposal.

The Board voted to extend the Town's contract for heavy equipment rental services with Joe Wilkinson & Sons for thirty days. The contract, which is a joint agreement with Sheffield, is set to expire two days from now on June 30, and the new bid opening isn't scheduled until July 14. Hence the need for an extension to provide the Town with coverage until a new agreement is in place.

In other matters, the Board agreed to move to its **every-other-week summer schedule** starting in July, with meetings set for July 12 and 26, and August 9 and 23. And finally the Board voted to approve its annual agreement with the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) for emergency communications services. The term of the agreement is from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, with an annual fee of \$11,237. Under the agreement

***Finding a building commissioner is critical as summer building projects accumulate with no one to inspect them.***



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BCSO provides the Town with police, fire and EMS emergency and non-emergency dispatch services. Then, after reviewing and approving the June 1 minutes, the meeting was adjourned.

**July 1: Formal offer to Matt Kollmer for building commissioner position.**

The Board met briefly in special session, with the only item on the agenda, the hiring of a building commissioner. As previously reported, the Town is currently without one, even as the building season heats up. As of Monday night's regular meeting there were no viable candidates in sight.

However, Mr. Carson reported that since then he's spoken with **Matt Kollmer, who is currently New Marlborough's alternate building inspector, who indicated he's interested in the position.** Mr. Kollmer is currently the building commissioner in both Sandisfield and Alford. He's also the assistant building inspector in Great Barrington and is an alternate building inspector in Sheffield, Egremont, and Hinsdale. As Mr. Carson noted, "Matt was the only person I could muster up, but he was the original person I wanted at the beginning of this whole thing." The Board agreed to have Town Administrator Enoch make him a formal offer, which includes a \$429.72 per twelve-hour-week salary.

*The Town could be eligible for \$435,806 in funds from the American Rescue Plan, but use of the grant funds is highly restricted*

*Peter Schuyten  
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**July 12: Appointment of Building Commissioner Matt Kollmer; appointment of other Town officials; report on Town's dirt roads, some of which need immediate attention.**

In a briskly-conducted meeting, completed in just half an hour, the Board made official its appointment of Matt Kollmer to building commissioner for the year ending June 30, 2022. This leaves the position of

alternate inspector, recently filled by Mr. Kollmer, open. Selectman Mark Carson's suggestion that Mr. Kollmer be asked to recommend his replacement was endorsed by the other two selectmen.

The Board then moved on to a slate of other appointments, effective for the fiscal year ending **June 30, 2022:** Mari Enoch as town administrator; Kathy Chretien, assistant tax collector and assistant Town treasurer; David Herrick, 911 coordinator; Chuck Loring, fire chief; Richard Stebbins, Housing Committee; Joan Hotaling, Council on Aging; and Sarah Jackson, Umpachene Falls Park Commission.

Next, Mr. Carson reported on an inspection of the town's dirt roads, many of which, he said, survived the heavy rains in early July in reasonably good shape. Of particular concern, however, was Foley Hill Road, which, in consultation with Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, Mr. Carson said costs some \$40,000 in annual maintenance. He strongly recommended that this road be black-topped. Others needing attention, he said, are Rhoades and Bailey, Hillingdon, and New Marlborough Branch Roads, the latter being flooded by the overflow from a nearby artesian well. Mr. Carson said that the owners of drilled wells need to be instructed to direct discharge onto their property rather than a public road.

A number of Town employees have requested that unused vacation time be carried over to the new fiscal year. The Board approved the carry-overs, with Selectman Richard Long stipulating that the days be used by yearend. With approval of the July 1 meeting minutes, the Board adjourned to reconvene in a closed executive session to review strategies for responding to collective bargaining initiatives. □

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## VIEW FROM THE BOARD

Voters approved a debt exclusion from Proposition 2½ at a special Town election, held July 12. Accordingly, the Town can now finance the \$210,000 required to rehabilitate Hatchery Road, which holds the lowest condition rating of any roadway in Town. Hopefully, work will still be able to be completed this year. Meanwhile, our emergency focus has been on damage repair, particularly affecting dirt roads during recent heavy rains.

A much smaller project that has been waiting in the wings for a few years is the placement of erosion control measures on the east bank of the Konkapot River as it flows through Umpachene Falls Park. Past storms have caused erosion into the park area. White Engineering, of Pittsfield, has designed the measures in accord with environmentally friendly methods prescribed by the state Department of Environmental Protection. The project has been waiting for the low flow water season (usually July or August), but given recent rains may be somewhat later. Special monitoring will be in effect to protect turtle migration and habitat in the area.


Two key positions of Town government should be filled by the time you read this column. The building commissioner position became vacant in June, but it will now be filled by Matt Kollmer, who is also the assistant building

inspector in Great Barrington. The critical role of treasurer has been open for some time, but candidate selection was scheduled to be complete and approved in late July.

Open positions remain on some Town committees, including Conservation Commission (two spots), Cable Advisory (one), Capital Planning (two), Council on Aging (one), Umpachene Falls Commission (one), Commission on Disabilities (one), Housing Committee (one) and Transfer Station Working Group (three). Much of the Town's business is conducted by the volunteers that serve on these important entities. If you are so inclined, send a short email stating your specific interest to [nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov](mailto:nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov).

Drafting work continues for updating the Town Human Resources Manual that codifies Town personnel policies, as well as those policies required by state and federal law or regulation. The needed additions and changes will significantly expand the document and clarify issues that were often subject to interpretation disputes in the past. This work has been aided by consulting advice from the Collins Center at UMass Boston, funded by a state Best Practices grant. □

*Chairman Richard Long*



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## PLANNING BOARD

**July 14:** Finding enough bandwidth and enough members to conduct a meeting was the biggest challenge the Planning Board faced at the first of its two monthly meetings. Two members, Jonathan James and Tom Sybesten were unable to attend, and Chairman Mark Carson, after a few tries, succeeded in convening the meeting with Paul Marcel on Zoom, audio only, and Bob Hartt via the speaker on Mr. Carson's cell phone. Things got underway at 7:16 p.m., with Sharon Fleck present as secretary and Mike Parsons of Kelly Granger Parsons & Associates there to present a plan for division of a property in Southfield.

Before the meeting got underway, Mr. Carson described a tour of roads damaged by the heavy rains of mid-July that he had taken with Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring. Several washouts, he said, happen in the same spots each time there is flooding, and, in order to save on the time, effort, and expense that goes into repeated repair of these stretches of road, he and Mr. Loring will request to the Town that they be paved. The worst two offenders are the steepest section of Foley Hill Road and an area along the Canaan Valley Road near the old Sportsmen's Club.

Getting on to business, Mike Parsons presented a plan to divide a fourteen-acre property owned by the Bove Trust (Richard Bove and Ellen Carson) into two roughly equal lots. One lot would include the former Baptist Church to the north of the Southfield Store on Norfolk Road (Main Street). The other would be the remaining land and house going north. Both lots have well over the required 150 feet of road frontage on River Road (albeit with the Umpachene Brook between the properties and the road). The lot with the church building has only 116 feet of frontage on Norfolk Road, and the other lot has 159 feet. Mr. Parsons presented the argument that, while that first lot is non-conforming with regard to the Norfolk

Road frontage, the original lot predates subdivision control laws and should therefore be grandfathered. Mr. Carson pointed out that many, if not most, of the lots along that stretch of Southfield's main street have less than the required frontage, and this division of the property would be consistent with that pattern. He then recused himself from further participation in this issue, since Ellen Carson is his sister-in-law. Bob Hartt then made a motion that, contingent upon a majority of the Board voting in the affirmative, this application should be approved.

Moving on to other business, Mark Carson and Bob Hartt agreed there were no new developments with the Dark Sky initiative. Mr. Carson said he planned to contact the new building commissioner, Matt Kollmer, to go over the Town's bylaws with a view to weeding out any inconsistencies with construction regulations. He added that the idea put forward by the Historical Commission of a creating a bylaw pertaining to the tearing down or alteration of historic buildings in town will be on hold for the time being.

With the hope that the next Planning Board meeting might be conducted in person at the Town Hall, Chairman Carson adjourned the meeting at 7:45. □

Larry Burke



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## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**July 17:** All Commission members – John Schreiber, Freddy Friedman, Nanci Worthington, and Doug Hyde – were present to address the month’s busy agenda.

The meeting started by continuing the hearing for the Notice of Intent (NOI) for Margaret Koerner of 2128 Canaan Southfield Road until next month, when engineering plans will be submitted detailing stabilization of the riverbank and erosion controls related to the covered bridge on her property.

Next, Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering on behalf of her clients, Mitchell Koch and Michele Noe of 226 Lake Buel Road, asked that the hearing for the NOI be continued until next month when the owner will submit additional site information.

Ms. Boomsma then spoke on behalf of her client, the Jamipa Trust, members of which were also present at the meeting, for work on 14 Norfolk Road. Ms. Boomsma explained that the NOI involved stabilizing the steep slope that has been compromised resulting in erosion into the Umpachene River. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has advised that the owner refer to the standards and best practices for successful stabilization techniques. Some areas will be stabilized with new vegetation, native shrubs and trees. An intermittent stream to the Umpachene River will also be cleared of Japanese knotweed and stabilized. Timing for the mitigation will be as weather permits.

Next, the Commission addressed the NOI presented again by Ms. Boomsma on behalf of her client Leonard Golub of Rhoades and Bailey Road. Mr. Golub was at the meeting, as was an abutter to the property, Allen Isaacson. The permit seeks to install a new entrance road to the property in addition to an existing route adjacent to wetlands – a beaver swamp and a perennial stream. The permit describes the installation of a culvert and a new gravel drive for access to a future house site. The Commission pointed out that there is a viable alternative access route to the property via an old logging road which is not jurisdictional. The Commission considered denying the permit as proposed due to the existence of the alternative access route into the property. Mr. Golub insisted that the Commission reconsider that determination because he believes the alternative road denies him access to the “heart of his property.” The discussion ended by agreeing to continue the hearing until next month when the engineer will present additional information on the alternative route. The Commission asked that Ms. Boomsma analyze and report on the feasibility of the alternative as a reasonable access route.

The Commission then addressed a Request for Determination (RDA) for Beth Reynolds of 1093

Clayton Mill River Road. At issue was removal of a dead tree threatening property and buildings. The Commission agreed that removal is prudent and granted permission with a negative determination. It was also requested that a native tree greater than six feet in height be planted to replace the tree and stabilize the soils. The Commission further asked that the tree stump remain in place.

Next, Wigmore Forest Resource Management addressed the Commission with an RDA for six-tenths of an acre on Mill River Great Barrington Road near the Konkapot River. Property owners Walter and Mary Wigmore were present via Zoom. A forestry permit for logging on the property was submitted separately to the DEP when DEP requested oversight from the Commission for an RDA because some of the work involves removing trees adjacent to the Konkapot River. The RDA proposes to cut more than thirty trees on six-tenths of an acre within 125 feet of the river on level ground. Associated work would include adding gravel and topsoil to the area for a house site. After some discussion it was clarified that only seventeen trees within a portion of the site are jurisdictional. The Commission agreed that an NOI is necessary for the work to proceed and moved to “deny” the RDA with a positive determination. Mary Wigmore addressed the Commission, asking for further clarification of her options. Finally, it was determined that should the applicant move the work out of the riverfront area an NOI would not be necessary. The applicants submitted that they would consider their options and next steps.

Unfortunately, due to an internet transmission failure at this point in the meeting, this reporter was not able to hear the end of the meeting. □

*Reported by Martha Bryan*





# FIRST STORYWALK® AT GOODNOW A HOPPING SUCCESS!

Despite the record saturation that was July, the New Marlborough Library and New Marlborough Land Trust StoryWalk® adventure held on July 3-5 was a huge success, with over fifteen families participating! StoryWalk® is a creative activity for children created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in collaboration with Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library of Montpelier. The activity, which has been conducted in fifty states and thirteen countries, is designed to be a fun, family-friendly event to get kids excited to experience both nature and literature. Building on the three-year-old Halloween collaboration, this new local offering by the Library and Land Trust brought Anne Hunter's children's book *Possum and the Peeper* to life along the Old Carroll Mill trail through pictures, text, and hidden clues, ending with a surprise bucket of peepers at Goodnow Preserve.

"I missed having a children's summer program last year and wanted to plan something for this year," Debora O'Brien, library director, explains. With outdoor programming being the safest, Deb approached Martha Bryan, New Marlborough Land Trust executive director, and together they planned a 1.9-mile interactive hike for families with young children. Martha "deconstructed" the book and a



Wasinger boys starting the StoryWalk



Along the walk with the Downing kids

group of local volunteers laminated the pages and staked them along the trail. "I like to work with other organizations," Deb notes. "It's a win-win. We have so many resources that people may not be aware of. This gets them out using and appreciating them."

Next month, on August 14-15, the Library/Land Trust duo plans to offer a story walk at Thousand Acre Swamp featuring *The Gruffalo*, written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Schaffler. The story follows a mouse who takes a stroll through the woods and meets a fox, an owl, and a snake who all want to eat him! To learn how he resolves his dilemma, join in the fun! (For more information, go to [www.newmarlboroughlibrary.org](http://www.newmarlboroughlibrary.org).) □

Robbi Hartt



photos by Deb O'Brien

Finishing the walk



Downing kids with the walk-ending trophy peepers



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NEW MARLBOROUGH  
**MEETING HOUSE**



**August 14**  
4:30 pm  
**Environmentalist Bill McKibben with Author Sue Halpern**  
A Discussion about technology and climate change. Sue Halpern on "The Future You Can Have" and Bill McKibben on "The Future You Don't Want."  
Seating will be limited; buy a ticket early!



**August 28**  
4:30 pm  
**Pianist Simone Dinnerstein**  
Simone Dinnerstein is a searching and inventive concert and recording artist who is motivated by a desire to find the musical core of every work she approaches.  
Presenting a program of Couperin, Schumann, Glass, and Satie



**Sept 11**  
4:30 pm  
**Shakespeare and Co. with Joan Ackermann**  
In a staged reading of Joan Ackermann's "Ice Glen," a touching period comedy set in the Berkshires. The performance will be followed by a talk with New Marlborough's own Joan Ackermann and the cast.



**Sept 18**  
4:30 pm  
**Pianist Jeewon Park, Cellist Edward Arron, with Narrator Ben Luxon**  
Park and Arron have individually garnered recognition worldwide for their dazzling technique and impassioned performances. They are joined by the internationally renowned voice of Ben Luxon for this program of Beethoven, Barber, Beach, and Schubert.



**Sept 25**  
4:30 pm  
**Magician Carl Seiger**  
An interactive performance combining illusion, jazz, and storytelling. Recommended for ages 16+



**Oct 2**  
4:30 pm  
**Author Simon Winchester**  
On his latest book, "Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World," with guests Kathleen Brown-Pérez, Heather Bruegl, and Setsuko Sato Winchester.

*Meeting House*  
**GALLERY**



**July 24**  
thru  
**Aug 15**  
**Sticks and Stones | Opening Reception July 23, 5-7 p.m.**  
Whether about Nature or metaphors, these works may literally use sticks and stones, or represent what the words "sticks and stones" allude to, or how they're used referentially in speech (a heart of stone).



**August 7**  
1-4 pm  
**Young Artists Celebrate New Marlborough**  
New Marlborough artists ages 5 through 14 present their celebration of New Marlborough in a one-day outdoor show



**Aug 21**  
thru  
**Sept 12**  
**Go Figure | Opening Reception August 20, 5-7 p.m.**  
These words may suggest works of Figurative Art, from real sources, or works from a process such as figuring things out, or a numerical process. These artists may be using anything from animate or inanimate objects, numerals, or the human figure, as the stimulus for their works.



**Sept 18**  
thru  
**Oct 10**  
**Wonder in the Wander | Opening Reception September 17, 5-7 p.m.**  
**Emerging Berkshire Artists Under 40**  
*Artists bear witness to the wander, internally or externally, and how it has nurtured their sense of wonder. The concept is also inspired by "Yugen," the Japanese term for an awareness of the universe that triggers an emotional response too deep and powerful for words.*

[nmmeetinghouse.org](http://nmmeetinghouse.org) 413.229.5045

Route 57 at the New Marlborough Village Green



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



## “RAISE YOUR HAND, JOIN US!”

### 2021 Elihu Burritt Award to Joseph Poindexter

By Elias (EJ) Wallman

Abundant is the opportunity to engage with the town of New Marlborough — its people, programs, and culture.

Joseph Poindexter, since moving here with his wife Holly in 2004, has been a primary and important contributor to the life and continuous happenings of New Marlborough that make it what it is today.

Joe, as you all know him, serves many positions in the town’s governance: He is a regular editor and reporter for the *New Marlborough 5 Village News*, he is the president of the New Marlborough Historical Society, and he has recently joined the boards of both the New Marlborough Meeting House (previously known as the Village Association) and the Housing Committee.

Joe has known the whimsical magnificence of the area since he was a kid. When his father built a house in West Cornwall, Connecticut, he became acquainted with this part of New England. Summers in West Cornwall left an impression that was still there when he and his family bought a weekend respite from life in New York City. “There’s a sort of bug that gets into you” when you experience this kind of place, as he mentioned in our interview.

Joe’s experience in his career and his drive for supporting those around him has deeply transferred both to his experience of this town and his impact on its legacy.

Shortly after graduating from college, Joe found a plethora of jobs in publishing including working for *Life Magazine* and *People Magazine*, at which point he chose to retire.

The editing experience he accumulated at his various jobs was channeled directly into his impact on the *New Marlborough 5 Village News* and the various other boards he attends – some of which he didn’t plan on attending.

Joe has stepped up to a part in each community he’s grown to know. With one group, in particular, he had an accidental introduction.

Years ago, upstream from Joe’s house on East Hill Road, there was some stonework and what looked like the structure of a mill. The word went out, as it does in this small town, that the New Marlborough Historical Society was meeting to try to decide whether or not to revive itself. Joe thought that there might be someone at the Historical Society who could offer some insight



Joe Poindexter

into the history of the stonework and mill structure. During the meeting, the discussion turned to the question of whether the Society had a future. The answer: for a committee. Naive in such matters, Joe was first to raise his hand. Coincidentally, there was no information shared about the stonework, but he did become president of the revived New Marlborough Historical Society, and he has kept that position ever since.

Joe was interested in a piece of New Marlborough’s history. He took advantage of the opportunity to engage in what he was interested in. Now he’s become a part of New Marlborough’s history, not only by sharing his voice, his time, and his warmth, but also

simply by raising his hand.

When I asked about advice he could give to the young people of this town, he replied, “Raise your hand, join us.” Explore your interests, and bring them to the table – whichever board, community, or conversation you choose to attend. You have a seat. □

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## Upcoming: Events Calendar for August and September

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

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

**August 20:** **Go Figure**, the Meeting House Gallery's second art show; reception starts at 5:00 p.m., open thereafter Friday-Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., until September 11

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


**August 28:** **Acclaimed Pianist Simone Dinnerstein** at the keyboard in the main room of the Meeting House, 4:30 p.m. plays Couperin, Schumann, Philip Glass, and Erik Satie — tickets are \$20 for members of the New Marlborough Meeting House, \$25 for non-members

**September 11:** **Joan Ackerman's play, *Ice Glen***, read by performers from Shakespeare and Company, 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House — tickets are \$20 for members of the New Marlborough Meeting House, \$25 for non-members

**September 17:** **The Wonder in the Wander**, a show of works by artists under age 40, opening 5:00 p.m. at the Meeting House Gallery, on view thereafter 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday to Sunday until October 9

**September 18:** **Music and Words**; pianist Jeewon Park and cellist Edward Arron play Beethoven, Barber, Beach, and Schubert, with a narration by Ben Luxon, 4:30 p.m. in the Meeting House — tickets are \$20 for members of the New Marlborough Meeting House, \$25 for non-members

**September 19:** **Magician Carl Seiger** is up to his old tricks in "*Clearly Visible . . . Magic up Close*," 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House — tickets are \$20 for members of the New Marlborough Meeting House, \$25 for non-members



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## ICE GLEN COMES TO LIFE AT NEW MARLBOROUGH MEETING HOUSE

### *An Interview with the Playwright*

by Robbi Hartt

The Southern Berkshires has the remarkable good fortune to claim many renowned artists as local residents, among them writer Joan Ackermann of Mill River. Luckier still, the surrounding community has the unique opportunity to experience a staged reading of Ackermann's beloved period comedy, *Ice Glen*, and gain insights into her creative process by attending the September 11 performance/talk, part of the New Marlborough Meeting House Summer 2021 Art and Music series. *Curtain Up* calls *Ice Glen* "a lovely play which will leave you with a lot to think about." Written especially for Shakespeare & Company and set in a once grand mansion now in disrepair, *Ice Glen* brings to life a cast of characters

as unique and memorable as a Berkshire wedding — an Irish cook, aging butler, soul-searching young widow, and free-spirited gardener/poet obsessed with nature (specifically, a bear).

A special contributor for *Sports Illustrated* for seven years and freelance writer for *Time*, *The Atlantic*, and a dozen or so other magazines, Ackermann is also known as a YA (young adult) novelist (*In the Space Left Behind*), a screenplay writer (*Off the Map*), and one of the head writers for the eighty-episode HBO series *Arli\$\$*. She is most revered and recognized by local residents, however, as playwright and co-founder/artistic director of the Mixed Company Theatre at the old Granary Building in Great Barrington. Of her twenty-one plays, which have been produced widely, *The Batting Cage*, performed off-Broadway at the Vineyard Theatre, is perhaps the best known. Karen Allen is hoping to direct a film adaptation of the play.

Joan Ackermann is a whimsical storyteller with engaging dialogue and a deep connection to her characters. To give readers a preview of what's in store in September, she entertained the following questions:

**Did you set out to be a journalist and playwright, or did it happen more organically? What part of the writing process intrigues you most?**

**JA:** "I've had a wonderful career writing for many decades in quite a few genres—journalism, a YA novel, a movie, television. My deepest passion has been writing



Writer Joan Ackermann

plays. Each genre has opened up new worlds and all kinds of adventures. A lot of travel. I feel extremely fortunate.

I never set out to 'be' a journalist or a playwright or even a writer. I just wrote. I was told by an editor at *Time* when I was a journalist for *Sports Illustrated* that I had a good ear for dialogue. I think you can capture character by harvesting just a little bit of DNA from voice. Character and voice have always been my strength and my joy. I have to work harder at things like structure. I think I've created a few hundred wonderful characters, but they haven't always lived in the best-built houses. Actors have always been very keen to inhabit my characters, and that's very satisfying."

**How did this partnering with the Meeting House and Shakespeare & Company come about, and what are you looking forward to most about this reading/conversation?**

**JA:** "Someone at the Meeting House asked Allyn Burrows at Shakespeare & Company to do a reading. He replied that he wanted to do a 'Joan Ackermann play.' They have produced four of my plays and I hope to write one or two more for them. I feel very close to that company and those actors and have wonderful memories of their magical first productions at The Mount.

Shakespeare & Company had a festival of readings of half a dozen of my plays in March of 2017, just a month before Gillian [Seidl] died. She reprised her role as Mrs. Roswell from the production they did at their Springlawn mansion. She really was an extraordinary actress, in a league of her own. Her great talent, her laughter, and heart have been such a huge part of Mixed Company. I, and others, will strongly feel her presence during this reading. Bittersweet. I'll think of her having a good time and enjoying such an event."

**Was the setting for this play inspired by Shakespeare & Company's Springlawn Mansion in Lenox? By the perpetual frost of *Ice Glen*?**

**JA:** "I first began writing this play for Shakespeare & Company... I wanted to write a piece for specific actors set in their Springlawn Theatre, one of the original Berkshire cottages that has since been sold. Sitting on



the floor of the great airy room where they performed, I met the characters in *Ice Glen*. Within five minutes of sitting there, the play began. It was daytime, but in my mind it was night, and there was a commotion outside. A man burst in from the terrace carrying a woman who had passed out. And so the play began..."

**How has living in Mill River nurtured your writing life? Are there ties between you and Sarah in the play, her connection to nature?**

**JA:** "Having lived in Mill River and listened to the Konkapot River for forty-five years, I would have to say it's a good spot to sit still and write. I am interested in place and how characters are a kind of crop of where they come from. Nature does act as a kind of character in my plays. I like my plays to have a strong sense of place and for the natural elements to creep into the world of the play. Nature definitely holds and fills the stage.

I started writing poetry when I was twelve, so I was familiar with some of Sarah's experience as a poet. Her resistance to being published – I heard her determined 'No!' from the get-go – interested me. I was curious about where that came from. Writing the play and hanging out with her, of course, helped me learn more about her and her vulnerabilities. I wouldn't say they are mine."

**Was the bear in the play inspired by the bear you once encountered in your home?**

**JA:** "I have always loved bears. They've shown up in my plays and movie – and my kitchen. The mother in *Off the Map* skins a bear, and when the movie was filmed just north of Taos, New Mexico, bears often wandered over near the set to munch on over-ripe apples that had dropped from the trees. They'd get a little drunk and tipsy, cavorting. I have a lot of bear stories. They probably have a lot of stories about me."

**How did *Mixed Company* come into being, and how long did you produce plays there? Is there a post-pandemic iteration of the theatre possible in the future?**

**JA:** "My very dear friend Gillian Seidl, a magnificent actress, and I opened *Mixed Company* in 1982. We never particularly wanted to open a theatre; we just wanted a place where we could act in plays. After our first year, I wrote my first play for us — *Don't Ride the Clutch* — a dozen or so scenes about women and courage which we took to the Edinburgh Theatre Festival. That was the beginning of my play writing. I wrote plays for us, for specific actors. It was all great fun and then it became more than fun, and I preferred writing to acting. We had such a good time. Gillian had retired a bit from the theatre and become more interested in painting when she was tragically hit by a truck in Sheffield in 2017.


I think about closing the theatre. I've put on a couple of plays without Gillian because I think she would want me to, but I miss her terribly. Covid has shut it down for now, though I tell people it's in 'suspended animation.' It is a live entity and I hear and feel characters rustling about in there without audiences present. I would love to do a couple more productions, but it's very difficult financially because it's earning no revenue."

**What writing projects are you working on now?**

**JA:** "I'm currently working on a screenplay I had to stop working on because I got some wretched tick illness, which halted me for a long while. I'm happy to be back writing!"

*Ice Glen* explores nature's impact on life and art, the artist's "duty" to her craft, and the complexities of human relationships (among other things) and will indeed leave you with a lot to ponder. Like its namesake locale in Stockbridge, the play creates a "lush, untended, romantic landscape" with ice persisting in the dark rock crevices until something causes it to soften.

For tickets to the September 11 event (\$20 for members, \$25 for nonmembers, under 21 free), visit [nmmeetinghouse.org](http://nmmeetinghouse.org). □



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## MORE THAN MUSIC

### *A New Name — the New Marlborough Meeting House — and an Expanded Mission*

By Joe Poindexter

It was a quiet year for live music, art shows, and book discussions at the Meeting House, but behind the scenes, a venerable New Marlborough institution has been transforming itself. Spurred by a cadre of new board members, the New Marlborough Meeting House (NMMH) is seeking to diversify its audiences and strengthen programming of the written and spoken word.

But first that name change: The original name, the New Marlborough Village Association, evolved from a 1960s Village Green Association, created to maintain the historic green at the center of New Marlborough village. With the purchase of four-tenths of an acre south of the green in 1973 and then the Meeting House adjoining the green, it incorporated as the New Marlborough Village Association, a non-profit organization formed to renovate the Meeting House.

Since the renovation was spearheaded by nearby New Marlborough village neighbors, the name seemed to make sense. But over time, the Board of Directors recognized that the organization had, as a prescient 2019 white paper written by board member David Hosford for a Strategic Planning Committee put it, “an identity problem.” Suggesting an exclusive focus on New Marlborough village, the name failed to embrace all of the town’s five villages or indicate the focal point of the organization’s strong suit, cultural programming. “It sounds like a home-owner’s association,” noted President Ben Harms at a meeting of the Board of Directors last fall. A change to the New Marlborough Meeting House helps address that misconception.

The rebranding, however, addressed only the surface of a systemic, long-term problem: loss of audience for Meeting House programs. Audiences for classical music, its basic fare until the mid-2010s, was aging out. It did not escape the board’s notice that a chanteuse drew a

capacity audience two or three years ago. And on the “More” side of Music and More, as the summer programs were called, a 2019 interview with Garrison Keillor, the host of NPR’s popular “Prairie Home Companion,” also sold out.

Mr. Keillor became a catalyst for a new set of initiatives at the association, ironically however, not for his success at drawing a crowd but for opposition to his appearance in the first place. Somewhat before his scheduled program, Mr. Keillor had become embroiled in accusations of unwanted sexual aggression by women on the staff of “Prairie Home Companion.” The charges generated an appeal from members of the community to find a substitute interviewee. The board voted to retain the program as planned but also to reach out to some of its more vocal critics. This resulted in the addition to the board of four younger — and female — members. (Full disclosure: the writer of this piece is also a new member of the NMMH board.) As long-time director Richard Stebbins puts it, “I think it’s terrific. Out of the ashes of Garrison Keillor came some good young people with a lot of energy.” Mr. Harms concurs: “In the short term, the most important thing to have happened last year was the addition of creative new board members.”

An initial result of the new blood is an expansion of the organization’s literary offerings. In addition to the traditional October interview, NMMH, under the guidance of board member Ellen Sweet, will present a program with Bill McKibben, the nation’s leading proponent of addressing climate change. He will be joined by best-selling writer (and wife) Sue Halpern. At this writing, more than sixty tickets to the event have been sold, through the on-line ticket agency Eventbrite.

A literary committee, headed by Ms. Sweet, has



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ambitions to broaden the range of subject matter and to reach more deeply than past programming into the New Marlborough community. It is particularly keen on engaging younger people, by encouraging debate with authors, say, or sponsoring group reading sessions such as those provided by the increasingly popular “One Book, One Community” program. President Harms is intrigued by the possibility of resurrecting “The Berkshire Writers Free-for-All,” a series of programs once hosted by the organization.

The regularly scheduled October interview will take heed of another current issue: ethnic and racial diversity. A discussion with Simon Winchester of his book, *Land: How the Hunger of Ownership Shaped the Modern World*, hopes to be joined by Heather Breugl, a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee people who originally occupied what is now New Marlborough. Eventually, the aim is to create literary programming not as the after-thought suggested by the now discarded “Music & More” moniker but as an integral part of NMMH’s cultural offerings.

The Meeting House Gallery, resuming activities this summer with two regular shows, is reaching for broader participation with a third show entitled “Wonder in the Wander” focused on artists under the age of forty, organized by new board member Anna Houston. And it

is planning an encore for the afternoon show of children’s art that proved to be a hit last August.

At the same time, NMMH is getting a new look: a new logo, an updated sign outside the Meeting House with the new name, of course, but also greater legibility than the old one, and a colorful and informative new website. The website redesign was initiated by board member Will Regan, who hired local web designer Caroline Alexander and then turned coordination over to Marion Rosenfeld, a former managing editor of *Spy* magazine and another new director. Other initiatives include fast internet connectivity inside the Meeting House (provided gratis by Fiber Connect’s Adam Chait), an effort to recruit corporate sponsors to give the operating budget a little breathing room, and an ongoing search for uses of the Meeting House — particularly those that might involve town activities. To this end, Mr. Harms would like to see off-season programming.

“I urge all interested community members to check out our new website, attend some of our events, and contact me or any board member with other ideas,” he adds. “All initiatives — old and new — will play a role in establishing a robust future for the Meeting House.” □



## LAND TRUST NEWS

Take your umbrellas and maybe the rain will let up. Isn’t that how things work?

The New Marlborough Library and the Land Trust had so much fun with the StoryWalk at the Goodnow Preserve, that they are planning another StoryWalk adventure — this time Saturday and Sunday, August 14-

15, at the Land Trust’s 1000 Acre Swamp property. Park at the Land Trust’s trailhead on Hotchkiss Road and enjoy a fifteen-minute walk to the one-of-a-kind suspension bridge at the picnic site and beaver dam. Along the trail enjoy the book, *The Gruffalo*, written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Schaffler. You might just glimpse the gruffalo and who knows what other wildlife as you walk the trail. Stay tuned for further details as the date nears.

Held on July 17, the Land Trust’s annual meeting gathered thirtyfive members. After a brief meeting and news that the Trust will be hiring a trail manager and will welcome four new board members in the upcoming year, the group enjoyed a party of iced tea and blueberry cake and then rambled off to a dry Saturday for a change.

Just in time for the heavy rains, we are happy to report that 100 linear feet of bog bridging is now in place at the New Marlboro Preserve to help visitors stay on the trail in areas that are chronically wet. Despite all this moisture, we hope you continue to find dry ground and enjoy some refuge out there. □

Executive Director Martha Bryan



photo by Martha Bryan

Volunteers Amelia and Isabella Kemp still smiling after finishing up the bog bridging on the trail at the New Marlboro Preserve



**NEIGHBORS**



Pam Stebbins, of New Marlborough village, shared this remembrance of her friend: **Macy Pell Hill** died peacefully in her sleep on July 5, 2021. She was a fourth-generation descendant of **Gladys Bloodgood and J. Macy Willets**. She was 83.

Macy was born and raised in Rye, New York, and spent her childhood summers at Cassilis Farm in New Marlborough where her grandmother taught and passed on to her a passion for equestrian

sports. She became an accomplished horsewoman, excelling in riding, foxhunting, driving, and combined driving. Most of her life was spent competing in and judging combined driving and pleasure events all over the country.

She and her husband, **Scott Hill Jr.**, moved to New Marlborough in 1967 where they owned Ibaisaic and Cassilis Farms. They relocated to Great Barrington in 1978 where they raised their two children, **Vera Hill Clement and Herbert Macy Hill**.

Macy was instrumental in helping to arrange the New Marlborough 250th Anniversary carriage event in October 2009. This was a day to celebrate the town's unique role in the introduction of the Hackney pony in this country. Sixteen carriages, drawn by beautifully groomed and matched horses completed a five-mile course designed and laid out by Macy.

Her three sisters **Angelene Pell, Tria Pell and Billie Hill** continue the family tradition of equestrian sports in New Marlborough.

There will be a memorial service in the New Marlborough Meeting House on Sunday, August 8, at noon.

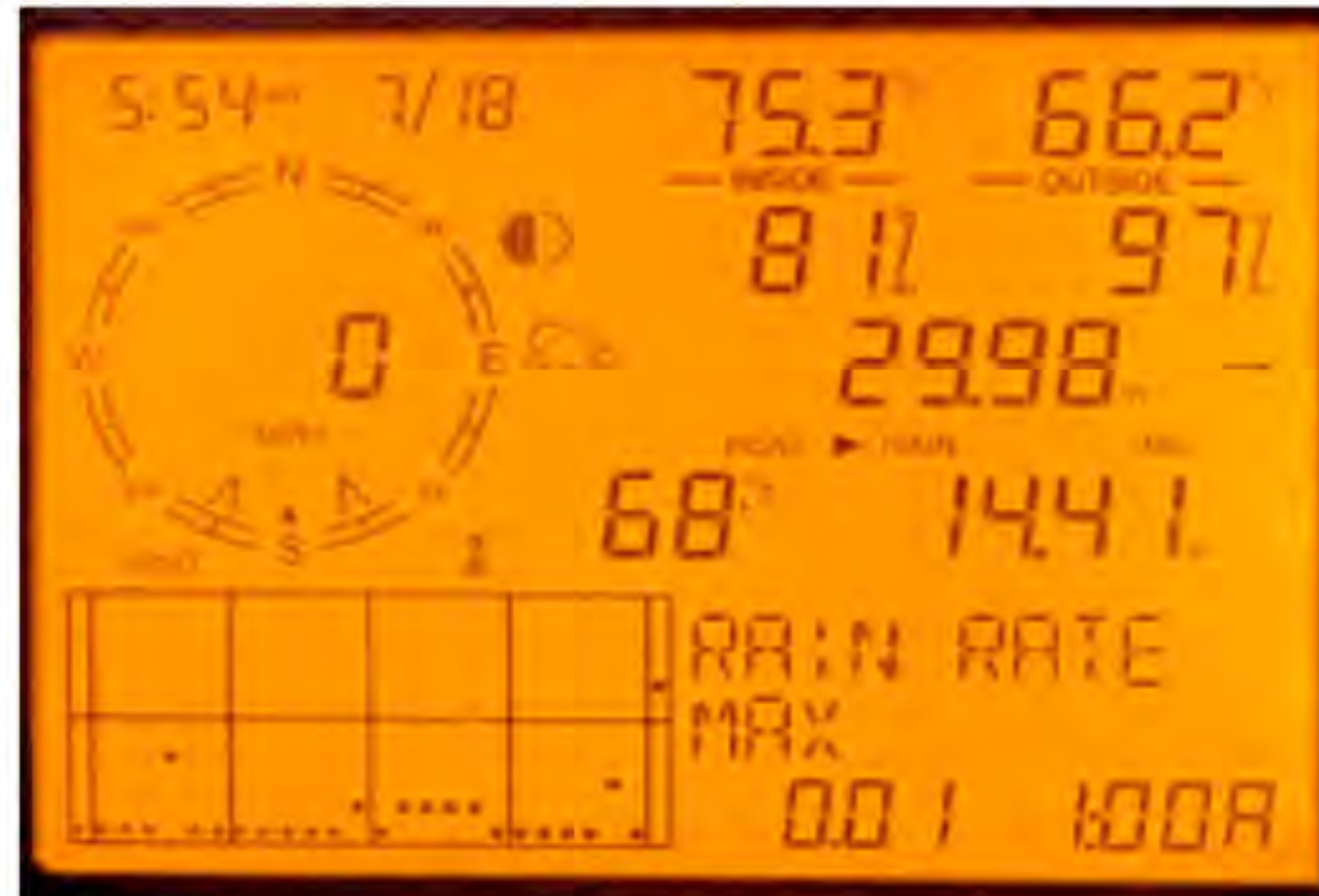
You think there has been a lot of rain? You're right. **John Schreiber's** digital rain gauge at the crest of Leffingwell Hill in Questing registered 10.57 inches in the first twelve days of July. "The most I have ever seen in so short a time," says John. He followed up five days later, at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 18, with a reading of 14.4 inches for the first seventeen days of July. □

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



photo courtesy of Macy's family

Macy Hill drives Cassilis Brilliance and Cassilis Venus in New Marlborough. Richard Edmonds accompanies her.



The digital rain gauge at Questing (right), and the July 18 reading of 14.41 inches (above)



photo by John Schreiber

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# KITSCH IS COOL AT CLAYTON'S GNOMEVILLE

By Laura Endacott

The Travelocity gnomes may roam the world, but nearly 200 gnomes call Michelle Dawson-Harvey and Ed Harvey's garden in Clayton their home sweet home. Back in the pandemic-days of March 2020, Michelle called me to ask after the welfare of some local gnomes. The sincerity in her voice left me pandemically-flabbergasted, so I investigated.

According to legend (and *The New York Times*), gnomes are solitary beings that carry knowledge of herbal medicine, plants, and garden secrets. They are much stronger than humans and live for much longer. By one definition, gnomes are simply small wooden or stone humanoid garden ornaments, but is there something more to this story?

In the second century AD, Roman emperor Hadrian placed human hermits throughout his gardens. Mimicking this idea, wealthy 18th century European aristocrats employed human hermits to live on their estates as "living gnomes." As hermits became more scarce, wealthy Europeans turned to inanimate objects. Gnomes became a popular garden decoration.

The Industrial Revolution made gnomes available to all, but the world was virtually halted their production, as resources went elsewhere. Gnome propagation saw a post-WWII resurgence, notable for Poland's and the Czech Republic's domination of the market. Today, the German



The full array of Michelle's gnomes



company Kimmel Gnomes still creates hand-made gnomes for the American market.

According to Michelle, "Ed thought I needed a hobby. After I was given my first gnome, friends and family flooded me with them. I do try to find and buy female gnomes, as they are rare. It makes me happy to get

out and maintain the gnomes and the garden, but mostly I love the joy that others get. Bikers, out-of-towners, and kids love to gawk. My daughter is mortified, but it has helped me get through this tough time. I love giving tours. By the way, you should see them lit up at night!"

Whether you think gnomes are kitsch or cool, take the kids of all ages to see Clayton's Gnomeville. You may fall into this magical world, or, at the very least, come away with a smile on your face.

Michelle and Ed are both firefighters and EMTs in New Marlborough. Michele is a nurse at Berkshire School, and Ed is a security staff member at Bard College at Simon's Rock. □



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## CREATING A NEW STORE BRICK BY BRICK

*The Mill River General Store Reopening: a Focus on Locally Grown and Locally Sourced*

By Rachel Weingeist

To refresh your memory of the long history of our only active general store in New Marlborough, all one has to do is Google its storied 181-year-long continuum. Since its start, The Mill River General Store has offered everything the community may want or need from window dressing to fishing worms to pumped gas. A steady place to pick up your mail, grab a cup of coffee, greet neighbors, and meet visitors has managed through numerous owners, regional trends, and demographic shifts. Our general store, no matter the owner, is a central village hub and has remained an active and an important part of the fabric of our community.

In late May, The Mill River General Store was acquired by local man and new proprietor, Peter Chapin, age twenty-nine. The community already knows Peter and his mother, Jan Johnson, of 282 Brewer Hill Road who launched The Mill River Farm in 2013 (<https://www.millriverfarm.org/>). During 2020 the demand for food and cooking at home surged. The Farm Store was working hard to restock basics like eggs many times a day: “It was a bummer for people to come out and see us be sold out. I could only hold eight dozen eggs, and at peak that was not enough,” says Mr. Chapin. The limitations of not having enough freezer space or storage were pressing.

Ultimately, self-service has its limitations, so when David Herrick put the for sale sign out in front of the store, the timing was perfect for Mr. Chapin to create his own operation apart from the Farm Store, to include a centrally located storefront where he could display affordable and locally produced as well as sourced provisions: cheese, ice cream, juices, honey, soups, liquor/beer, meat, yogurt, vegetables, baked goods, and snacks.

With this great synergy, the Herrick family (owner David, brother Dick, and realtor sister Mary Jo Piretti) sold the business connecting the store with another strong family team. “We have had terrific support from the Herrick family and it is such an unusual time. We closed on the sale of the store at the height of business for the farm. Building materials are hard to get now, but Pete has a plan,” says Jan Johnson. A proud mother, she



*The new crew at the Mill River General Store: manager Siobhan Yapple, cashier Ashlee Shaw, and proprietor Peter Chapin photo by Rachel Perrera Weingeist*

adds “I am here to support Pete and what he wants to do; he has proved to me he has the vision and drive to make a big success. The idea is to support as many people as possible and be as local as possible. That is what we were doing.”

Mr. Chapin estimates when fully stocked the store will have 600-650 items on display and he welcomes suggestions and recommendations of your favorite items. “If the community needs it, we want to provide it.” He is “not interested in designer foods, I don’t like that concept” and “wants to keep prices affordable and the quality high. That said, costs are higher for quality products with high nutrient value. Our

fresh organic, air-chilled chicken is \$6 a pound and available once a month before it is frozen.”

Ms. Johnson’s vision is clear: “One thing underappreciated in the farming world these days: growing a terrific product is at best half the work that has to be done. Whether you believe in preserving farmland for aesthetic reasons or you believe in the great magnification of a dollar spent locally, whether you believe nutrition is the most important the sooner you consume after harvest, our premise is to continue to offer general store items that people rely on — wine for dinner or sandwiches for a working lunch.”

Mr. Chapin wants to hear all ideas for community-sourced products as the Mill River General Store grows to meet the needs of the new recently relocated urban population, retirees, young families, and the longtime local population. “We are a pretty-tight knit community. We want to support them and they support us. The money stays here,” he says.

Any day now Mr. Chapin is expecting to offer prepared sandwiches from Gedney Farm, dry pasta from Cantina, Hidden Mountain lamb and Tom Brazie’s beef. There will be more coolers and more freezers. “Basically, if it is produced here in New Marlborough, I will source it here,” says Mr. Chapin. The soft serve machine is coming as soon as possible and when the budget allows. In the old days the distributor used to provide machines to stores, but now you have to buy your own and they are



very expensive. “Eventually we will have our own recipe and our own machine,” says Mr. Chapin. “We want to work with as many farms as possible. We will display everything.”

In the very near future when upgrades can be made to the existing infrastructure, the store will be cooking and offering all of its own food creations and may even host guest chefs. “We want to eventually do a full kitchen in the back but that could be a little way off,” says Mr. Chapin. “The plan is to do a rotisserie to be able to roast our own birds. The plan is to build it brick by brick.” The business is making use of the current bare-bones features and slowly deciding what to upgrade as timing and budgets permit.

The Mill River General Store is managed by Siobhan Yaple alongside cashier Ashlee Shaw who is working full time, but is temporary summer help. The business needs more help like many businesses now, and is looking to add more staff in the deli area, cashiers, and more. Current hours are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. weekdays, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sundays. if anyone is interested in this 181-year-old start-up, get in touch with Mr. Chapin. They are open to everyone as an equal opportunity employer and seem to be paying new hires on the higher end.

**The Post Office:** Peter is in discussion with the Postal Service and hopes the post office will reopen in the near future. This area of the building is up to code, but it is in negotiation still to find a date to bring back the services. It will take some working out as the Postal Service wants the general store to be opened in order to come back, and with Mr. Chapin’s plans to do some renovations, some details need to be ironed out. “I intend to have them come

back, but it is not entirely up to me. I am waiting for a response.” There are obvious benefits to the approximately 300 box holders, to the town and community who want to pick up their mail and post packages efficiently close to home.

**Licensing:** Part of what people loved about this place is that it is a real general store. It is a place to do everything including getting permits. If you need a hunting, fishing, or sporting license, that can still all be taken care of in person by using the Massachusetts online portal and a credit card (<https://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt-buy-fishing-or-hunting-licenses>) Fees range from \$30-\$50 depending on which license you seek – doe/deer and bear, turkey, geese...

Soon worms, lures, and ammunition will be available. MRGS used to sell guns, but “we don’t think we will sell guns, but likely ammo,” says Mr. Chapin.

**Something for Everyone:** “We will be here for the town and continue to provide the services and the products they want including cigarettes. The town has an embargo on [retail sale of] cannabis. We have no plans of becoming a dispensary at this time.”

Mr. Chapin is strategically thinking through future plans for the store and what will be done in Stage 1 and Stage 2. It is a large expansive space that has many unheated back rooms that are good for storage. Much depends on what the architect thinks can be done and what it will all cost. The upstairs apartment may be for staff housing, or Mr. Chapin may develop shared office space with the new fast internet, also available with your cup of coffee in the Mill River General Store. □



Bounty from the Mill River Farm, which has outgrown its retail space, will be one of the renovated store’s strong suits.

photo by Rachel Perrera Weingeist

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# THE LOG

## Police Department (selected entries)

- June 2 4:16 p.m. A Clayton resident requests Department control of speeders on Clayton Mill River Road next to the mile-long corn lot; starting an hour later, an officer issues three warnings to speeders on this section of roadway.
- June 3 8:09 a.m. A caller alerts the Department to a tree down on Hotchkiss Road.
- 8:13 a.m. An officer, with the use of two rounds of bean bags, persuades a bear to abandon a tree adjacent to the Southfield Store.
- 11:12 a.m. Following a report that two cubs are occupying the Southfield Store tree, an officer cones off a section of nearby road to leave the cubs undisturbed.
- 8:00 p.m. A Mill River resident requests protection from a neighbor who has threatened her.
- June 4 10:44 a.m. The Highway Department is alerted to a water-main break sending up a twenty-foot geyser on Pine Road.
- June 5 3:19 p.m. An officer assists a driver whose vehicle lost its left front wheel while traveling Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- June 6 5:19 p.m. The animal control officer alerts the Department as she is en route to a dog complaint in Southfield.
- 8:59 p.m. An officer assists a driver, whose medication is causing him to drive erratically and heading on New Marlborough Southfield Road in the wrong direction for his intended destination in Housatonic, in locating his caretaker to take him home.
- June 7 9:54 a.m. A driver, whose vehicle has gone off Brewer Branch Road, requests assistance in locating a tow.
- June 8 2:26 p.m. A Mill River resident complains that her landlord's girlfriend is threatening to kill her pet bunny.
- June 12 1:50 a.m. A Hartsville resident, reacting to a noise in her garage, dials 911 and then realizes it has been caused by her boyfriend unloading his car.
- 1:17 p.m. A Knight Road resident is asked to extinguish an unattended fire.
- 7:50 p.m. A Hartsville resident reports receiving a phone call in which two individuals, a female and then a male, neither known to her, appeared to be in a domestic dispute.
- June 13 11:37 a.m. A Southfield resident complains of construction noise on a Sunday.
- June 14 10:30 a.m. A woman is issued a warrant for disobeying a no-trespass order at a Southfield village residence.
- 4:41 p.m. An officer assists a driver with a flat tire on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- June 15 7:39 p.m. An officer reports a downed tree blocking Brewer Hill Road.
- June 18 5:30 p.m. Following a complaint from a Hartsville resident that the high-speed internet cable to her house has been severed in four places, an officer determines that the cuts were made by a lawn mower or an animal and advises the homeowner to request that her provider bury the cable.
- June 19 10:16 p.m. A caller complains of gunshots or fireworks in the vicinity of her Southfield home.
- June 22 9:56 a.m. The animal control officer assists in tending to a severely injured fox in the driveway of a New Marlborough Hill Road resident.
- 10:11 a.m. A New Marlborough village resident reports her suspicions of a man claiming to be an educational materials salesman and asking to be admitted into her house.
- 12:10 p.m. Two large branches downed on Clayton Mill River Road are blocking the north-bound lane.
- 7:09 p.m. Connecticut State Police request the Department to be on the lookout for a Clayton resident who is operating a vehicle with a suspended driver's license.
- June 25 2:22 p.m. A New Marlborough village resident reporting that her internet account has been hacked is advised to change account passwords.
- 3:40 p.m. A Mill River resident reports fraudulent withdrawals from his Verizon wireless account.
- June 26 12:54 p.m. An officer lends assistance after a car hits a tree on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 10:34 p.m. After a neighbor complains of noise emanating from an outdoors party at a Hartsville residence, the host agrees to shut things down.
- June 27 12:16 p.m. Tree down blocking Canaan Southfield Road.
- 6:57 p.m. An officer assists a motorist who has locked himself out of his vehicle on Rood Lane.
- 8:57 p.m. An officer assists in changing a flat tire on South Sandisfield Road.
- 11:37 p.m. The Department assists a driver in locating a tow after he swerves off Peter Menaker Road to avoid hitting a deer.



June 28 3:54 p.m. National Grid advised of wires down on Canaan Valley Road.  
 June 30 11:34 a.m. An officer assists a driver whose car is disabled in New Marlborough village.  
 4:39 p.m. A resident reports his concern that a

regular early morning driver, failing to yield the right of way when entering Mill River Great Barrington Road, is likely to cause an accident.

*Graham Frank, Chief of Police*

## FIRE AND RESCUE

June 10 10:53 a.m. Hill Heights Road Medical Call  
 June 11 12:30 p.m. County Road MVA  
 June 12 5:22 a.m. Norfolk Road Medical Call  
 June 12 1:19 p.m. Knight Road Brush Fire  
 June 14 6:24 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call  
 June 15 8:47 a.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm  
 June 19 9:56 p.m. Leffingwell Road Medical Call  
 June 21 8:32 a.m. Brewer Hill Road Fire Alarm  
 June 21 11:34 p.m. East Hill Road Medical Call  
 June 22 5:58 p.m. Downs Road Medical Call  
 June 23 7:20 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road

Medical Call  
 June 25 4:43 p.m. Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call  
 June 26 12:56 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call  
 June 28 2:04 p.m. Cagney Hill Road Medical Call  
 June 29 3:16 p.m. Stratford Road CO Alarm  
 June 30 8:39 a.m. Stratford Road Medical Call  
 June 30 6:30 p.m. East Hill Road Fire Alarm  
 June 30 6:51 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm

*Fire Company President David Smith*

**Fire Company 2021 Pig Roast:** It's back. The New Marlborough Fire Company Pig Roast returns this year on Saturday, August 21. Dinner, served from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the fire station in Southfield, will include pork, turkey, potatoes, corn, and salad. Takeout will also be available. Dinner tickets are \$20 each, \$10 for children.

This year's Grand Raffle also returns, featuring another great outdoors package from Clarke Outdoors of West Cornwall, Connecticut. First prize this year is a stand-up paddleboard package valued at \$3,000. It includes two Oxbow stand-up paddleboards, two AquaBound paddles, two Astral air belts, two stand-up leashes, and a gift certificate to Clarke Outdoors. (Or, the winner may instead choose \$2,000 cash.) This year's raffle also includes a \$500 cash second prize and a \$250 cash third prize. Tickets are \$10 each, and only 1,200 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held during the Pig Roast.

Dinner and raffle tickets are available at [www.nmfirecompany.org](http://www.nmfirecompany.org), from any Fire Company member, at the Mill River General Store, and at the Sunday Farmer's Market on the Green in the village of New Marlborough. You may also email Fire Company President David Smith ([branchroadcom@yahoo.com](mailto:branchroadcom@yahoo.com)) or call 413-429-6680 for more information and to order your tickets.

Funds raised by the New Marlborough Fire Company support items typically not covered in the annual New Marlborough Fire and Rescue Town budget. These include upkeep and maintenance of the fire station, equipment purchases, an annual scholarship, and Fire Company activities such as Fire Prevention Day at New Marlborough Central School. □

*Fire Department President David Smith*



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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This is a really cheery dessert that is wonderful to make all summer long. Traditionally made with strawberries, it works with all fresh summer fruits - raspberries, blueberries, cherries, even peaches. The meringue can be made in advance and stored in an airtight container, making assembling the dessert easy and quick. I think it is a perfect Berkshires dessert; full of juicy fruit, fresh cream and crispy meringue, full of ingredients that can be sourced locally. □

Fiona Kerr



### Eton Mess

**Ingredients:** 2 egg whites  
4oz fine white sugar (caster sugar) + 1 tablespoon  
2 - 3 cups berries (500gm)  
1 pint cream  
1 tablespoon icing sugar

#### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 240°
- Whisk egg whites in a clean bowl until soft peaks form; gradually add the sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time until the sugar is dissolved and the egg whites are glossy. Spoon dollops of egg whites onto a lined baking sheet and bake for 45mins -1 hr. (The longer you bake, the crispier the meringue; we like ours a bit chewy on the inside).
- Leave to cool completely and place into an airtight container until you are ready for them.
- Puree half the berries with the 1 tablespoon of sugar, then sieve to remove any seeds.
- Whip the cream with the icing sugar until soft peaks form and fold the fruit puree through. Roughly chop the meringues, reserving a quarter, and stir the remaining 3/4 through the cream.
- Serve in bowls or glasses, topping with the rest of the fresh fruit and meringue.

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# COMMUNITY INTERN PARTNERSHIP TASK FORCE

By Beth Regulbuto, Superintendent, Southern Berkshire Regional School District

In order to transform our internship program to make it into a vital part of our high school experience at Mount Everett, the District is looking for volunteers to be a part of a Community Intern Partnership Task Force. The goal of this Task Force is to tap into the vast resources available in our school community in an effort to have organizations and businesses join the District in helping to build a solid network of meaningful internship opportunities for our students.

We know that after students graduate from Mount Everett they have a variety of pathways to choose from, including continuing on to college, enlisting in military service, or transitioning into the workforce. In order to better prepare our students for success in the post-secondary experience they choose, Mount Everett has created a series of pathways to give the students academic coursework in specific areas of interest including general education, liberal arts, global education, entrepreneurship, and technology pathways. The District is also providing an Early College experience for students as part of a grant in partnership with Bard College at Simon's Rock, as a way to ease the burden of future educational costs for families, to increase student confidence in pursuing higher education coursework, and to give insight into the field that students think may interest them. Early College helps them to see if it's a good fit or if they might want to change their mind. We believe that a great way to enhance both – the Pathways and the Early College Program – is to have a strong, well-defined, and comprehensive internship experience so that students can really get a feel for a career in the particular field of interest to them or find a passion for something they never thought of before!



Beth Regulbuto

Members of the new Task Force will review and give input on the expectations we have set for the student interns and the sponsoring businesses who participate in the program. The Task Force members themselves will consider providing an internship experience for a student in their own business or organization, and also recommend other potential placements or contacts for Mount Everett staff to pursue. Thoughtfully designed and productive mentorship experiences in our communities can have a positive impact on our communities by fostering future leaders and participants in the Southern Berkshire workforce.

We are looking to get this Task Force up and running in mid- to late- August. If you would like to volunteer to serve on it please contact me at [bregulbuto@sbrsd.org](mailto:bregulbuto@sbrsd.org) or call the administrative office at 229-8778 x304 and ask for Beth Regulbuto. We are excited about the new possibilities to work together with our communities to provide the best education for our students. □



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*The Maidens*, by Alex Michaelides  
*The Bohemians*, by Jasmin Darznik  
*The Last Green Valley*, by Mary Sullivan  
*The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hill*, by Robert Dugoni  
*Our Woman in Moscow*, by Beatriz Williams  
*Send for Me*, by Lauren Fox  
*The Book of Lost Names*, by Kristen Harmel  
*Leave the World Behind*, by Rumaan Alam  
*The Sweetness of Water*, by Nathan Harris

### Adult Nonfiction

*Letters to Camondo*, by Edmund de Waal  
*The Confidence Men: How Two Prisoners of War Engineered the Most Remarkable Escape in History*, by Margalit Fox  
*The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*, by J. Drew Lanham  
*Falling is Not an Option: A Way to Lifelong Balance*, by George Locker  
*How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*, by Clinton Smith

### Children's Fiction

*The Bench*, by Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex  
*Q and U Call it Quits*, by Stef Wade  
*The Last Fallen Star*, by Graci Kim

### Children's Nonfiction

*The Gravity Tree: The True Story of a Tree That Inspired the World*, by Robert Burleigh  
*Wilbur Wright Meets Lady Liberty*, by Robert Burleigh

## Summer Library Hours

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

## Second Annual Young Artists Exhibition

August 7: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Children ages 5-15 will exhibit their creations on the lawn in front of the Meeting House. Come and celebrate New Marlborough's wonderfully talented youth!

## Cookbook Club

August 11 at 6:00 p.m.  
 Make your favorite tomato recipe, bring your own place setting and enjoy an evening of wonderful food and great conversation. Tomato cookbooks are available at the library, if you would like to try new recipes!

## Book Discussion Group

August 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Please join us for bagels and a lively discussion of the book, *Dancing in the Mosque: An Afghan Mother's Letter to Her Son*, by Homeira Qaderi. Books available at the library.

## Elihu Burritt Day August 21

LOOKING FOR BAKERS!

The New Marlborough Friends of the Library are looking for bakers for their annual book and bake sale at Elihu Burritt Day August 21. If interested please contact the library at 413-229-6668 or at: [newmarlborough@gmail.com](mailto:newmarlborough@gmail.com)

## StoryWalk® Adventure at Thousand Acre Swamp

August 14 and 15

The New Marlborough Library and the New Marlborough Land Trust invite you to a self-guided walk at Thousand Acre Swamp while reading the pages of *The Gruffalo*, by Julia Donaldson. Make plans to enjoy the half mile flat walk from the Land Trust gate (parking area on Hotchkiss Road) and ending at the Stebbins suspension footbridge. Bring a picnic lunch as you enjoy beautiful views of Thousand Acre Swamp. Be sure to be on the lookout for GRUFFALOS!!!



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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, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Fire Department training:** Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station
- Building Inspector:** Monday 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. or by appointment.
- First Responders:** Meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station
- Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m at the library
- Post Office: Mill River** (413) 229-8582 — if and when it re-opens:  
Window hours: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
**Southfield** (413) 229-8476  
Window hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
- Town Treasurer:** Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.
- Tax Collector:** Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tues and Thurs 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Dog and Animal Control Officer:** Cassie Keeley, (413) 429-7603
- Town Clerk:** 229-8278; 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment
- Town Hall:** 229-8116
- Police:** Business office: 229-8161
- Library:** 229-6668

## Transfer Station Hours:

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

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## Emergency calls:

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## New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.  
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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*

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Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger, Fiona Kerr,  
Index: Donna Weaver

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For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369  
PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

**[5villagenews@gmail.com](mailto:5villagenews@gmail.com)**



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- ◆ **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](mailto:chris@design-planning.com).
- ◆ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield (413)229-0050
- ◆ If you are looking for short term rehabilitation, physical therapy, senior living, skilled nursing or memory care, look no further than **Noble Horizons**, proud recipient of Medicare's premier 5-star rating. Just over the border in Salisbury, CT. [www.NobleHorizons.org](http://www.NobleHorizons.org) 860-435-9851; 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT.
- ◆ **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@barringtonlawoffice.com](mailto:ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com) or (413)528-4300
- ◆ **Reiner White & Sons, Inc:** A family-run general contractor business serving the MA and CT area since 1988 - new construction, additions, remodeling, and more. Licensed and insured. Call (413) 229-8450 for free consultation.

To list your business here, contact Barbara Lowman (413)229-2369