



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield



“STILL CRAZY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS”

By Jodi Rothe

Paul Simon’s memorable song, “Still Crazy After All These Years” could be New Marlborough’s theme song when it comes to accessing high speed internet service. In August 2007, former resident Debra Herman wrote an article entitled “Car Surfing in Mill River” about townspeople parked in their cars outside the library at all hours “desperately seeking bandwidth.” Exactly seven years later, the landscape for high speed internet is still about the same, with some exceptions due to chance and desperation.



Drawing by Robin Toft

The fortunate have been able to sign up for Verizon DSL; others have resorted to AT&T “hotspots” which can be expensive, as billing is based on usage and is not as fast as DSL. Some still park outside the library, and others still sit bleary-eyed in front of their screens at home *Waiting for Godot*, aka dial-up.

One of the lucky ones with Verizon DSL is artist Ann Getsinger who says, “I can’t imagine how I would’ve been able to make connections with galleries and follow through with recent exhibits without DSL. To have a rural business without high speed internet puts you at a huge disadvantage. I get a lot of business through word of mouth, but I’m able to maintain my business, both art and framing, more efficiently because of my access to the internet.”

Kristen Sanzone on Arroyo Way in Hartsville finally got a “hotspot” from AT&T and posted on the local online forum, Maggie’s List: “Have had many epic conversations with Verizon over the years about getting DSL. I called them after receiving “promo” cards in the mail or on our bill only to be told the service isn’t available at our location. Nice of them to advertise to us something we can’t actually get. I am hopeful that WiredWest will be successful in getting FO [fiber optic] out here. Someday.”

Another town resident, Irene Wallhausser, had the opposite experience. She was able to get Verizon DSL after noticing an offer printed on the outside of her Verizon bill envelope and within four days she had a DSL connection. She says the moral of her story is to “pay attention to your envelope.”

Marion Rosenfeld also got lucky. “I was a library-parking-lot internet vampire for many years. I called Verizon at least once a year for over a decade to see whether we could get internet at our house – nothing.” However, after Marion’s father passed away she called Verizon to have the landline bill switched into her name and at the end of the call the customer service agent asked whether there was ‘anything else we can help you with?’ She says, “I rolled my eyes and asked whether there was a DSL node available – fully expecting a ‘no.’ Shockingly and surprisingly there was! So now at the corner of Canaan Southfield/Lumbert Cross/Keyes Hill/Rhoades and Bailey we finally have DSL.”

Long-time residents Charlie and Teena Parton signed up for Verizon DSL when

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Still Crazy, continued

it was offered early on and were billed for installation. A Verizon technician who came to set it up later informed them they couldn't be connected due to their location. Adding to their frustration, Verizon ignored their requests for a refund. After numerous and fruitless phone calls they had to contact the FCC in order to get their money back. It was sent immediately.

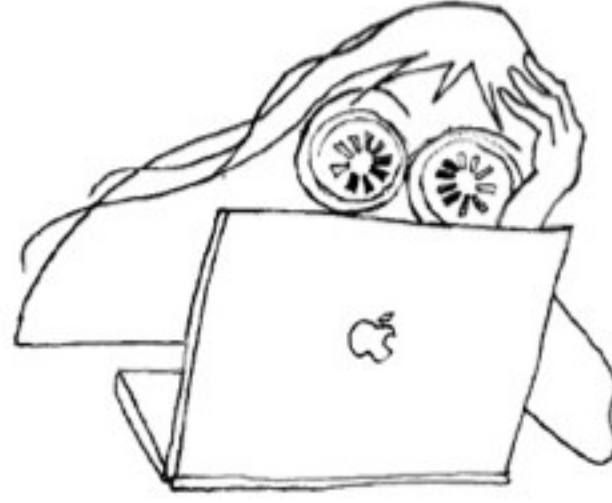
Lack of high speed internet has had a negative impact on real estate sales in the area. Leslie Miller, former owner of Mepal Manor and Spa, had this experience: "Sometime in the past two years, the realtor we were working with showed the property to a likely candidate. They loved everything about it, thought it fit their vision perfectly, and were very serious prospects. After several meetings and tours, they suddenly fell off the radar. When we did speak next, the reason given was lack of cell service and high speed internet. They were truly surprised that a realtor would even show them an important property that lacked these essential components."

Real estate broker Mary White, who runs one of the most successful businesses in Great Barrington, also lives in New Marlborough and not only deals with spotty cell phone service at home, but has no internet service. Maureen Hosford on the Norfolk Road, three miles south of Southfield Village, says, "We do not have, nor have we ever had access to DSL. We are among those that Verizon chooses to ignore."

Have New Marlborough residents become used to being "have-nots" when it comes to technology? Terrill McDade, who lives on Sisson Hill Road, has neither cell service nor internet. "I use the library for internet as long as my battery lasts! Sure would be nicer to have cell plus internet on the hill." Terrill has done his homework with Verizon: "There's a maximum number of lines on the nodes. They need to run more cable if they want to add

more users when an existing node is maxed out. And if the location doesn't have enough potential users, they won't do it."

Steve Cunningham, who sells organic produce from his farm in Southfield, recently bought a device from Verizon called MiFi. He says, "It's a device you plug into your computer. It's not great but better than nothing." The original cost is about fifty dollars but it can run up to \$100 a month in fees. It's available from Verizon and Amazon.



Desperately Seeking Bandwidth 2007-2014

Drawing by Robin Tost

aspects of daily life has only increased since I wrote about hanging out in the library parking lot. For this reason, I do hope that the efforts of WiredWest (www.wiredwest.net) to bring fiber optic internet to this region will be wholeheartedly supported ... Ponder this: if you were thinking about moving to the Berkshires today, would you buy in an area with poor internet access?"

On Monday, August 12, Selectman Michele Shalaby had a meeting with state Senator Ben Downing to discuss high-speed internet access in New Marlborough. (Senator Downing is Chair of the Joint Commission on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy.) The state has committed to spend \$50 million to address this issue. The question they discussed is where best to put this money? Ms. Shalaby says that WiredWest has certainly done an enormous amount of planning, and they strongly believe that fiber optic is the way to go. Senator Downing suggested that perhaps the Massachusetts Broadband

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Institute (which now has control of the \$50 million and has yet to hire an executive director) might be more in favor of getting service to everyone via a balance of services, some of which might involve cable. Ms. Shalaby is concerned that if we only go the fiber optic route, the cost will be so huge that the majority of townspeople won't be willing to support it. (Tellingly, she mentioned that geographically New Marlborough is the second largest town in the state, which adds enormously to costs of laying cable or fiber because of the miles that have to be covered; Sandisfield is the largest town in the state.)

Others, including Brian Killeen, posted supportive messages solely in favor of WiredWest: "WiredWest is our best bet. Thanks to their tireless efforts we have gotten as far as we have. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Debra Herman and particularly to Tim Newman, who has been the voice for our community for the past six years. Now that more funding is available from the state, it's imperative that it reaches us and is hopefully managed by WiredWest."

However it turns out, in a statement for this article, Senator Downing said: "I am committed to working with my colleagues in the Berkshire delegation, non-stop, until high quality, affordable broadband is available to every resident of every community in western Massachusetts. While it has been frustratingly slow, we have made a great deal of progress in recent years. I am especially excited to work with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, WiredWest, and local communities to wisely invest the \$50 million authorized in the Information Technology Bond Governor Patrick recently signed."

In addition to issues of DSL and Broadband, Selectman Shalaby is frequently asked about the absence of adequate cell service. Librarian Deb O'Brien's son, Chris, a peripatetic traveler, had an "aha" moment about cell coverage when he took a course from the School of Field

Studies that sent him to Kenya to meet the Masai. He keenly remembers the incongruity of standing next to several Masai warriors, each of whom carried a pointed staff in one hand and a cell phone in the other. (This was a year or more ago. Who knows, by now they might be surfing the internet!)

While acknowledging that cell service is an issue, Selectman Shalaby sees high speed internet as the first priority. She believes that in addition to the need to attract businesses to New Marlborough, the importance of access to online education for local students cannot be over-stated. In her conversations with local educators she has learned that even driving to Pittsfield for Berkshire Community College classes is too far for some local students who would prefer to take classes online. Other students could take classes and degree programs from across the country. Obviously this isn't possible given the state of internet access in New Marlborough today.

It's ironic to think that one of the few places in town for high speed access used to be an old buggy whip factory which has had a few incarnations since then (sweater factory, antique store) and is now available for office rentals. (www.buggywhipfactory.com)

One thing to consider in terms of United States history is how many towns died after the newly-built railroads declined service to them because they weren't important enough for a railway stop. What must it have been like for those townspeople to sit with their families in their buggies, watching a train pass by without stopping – not giving their children a chance to hop on to the future unless they could afford to move to another town. Did they flick their whips and drive on home to sit in front of the fire and wonder – are we going to be the town left behind?

Let's not go there. □

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN



July 28: With all three selectmen present, the Board met with **outgoing Police Chief Scott Farrell to confirm his resignation and to discuss a successor.** In a letter to the Board dated July 22, Chief Farrell indicated he would be stepping down as chief and also as town moderator effective August 7. He said he and his family are moving east to Marshfield, Massachusetts, and that he and his wife Melissa have accepted positions with the Silverlake Regional School District in Kingston, Massachusetts, where they will be working on curriculum issues. (See story on page 11.)

He recommended Officer Graham Frank to succeed him, saying he's confident Officer Frank can handle the added responsibility. Officer Frank joined the department as a part-timer in 2009 and became the department's first full-time officer in 2012. (See story on page 10.)

The Board met with New Marlborough Village Association president Louise Yohalem who **asked the Board if the Town would take over responsibility for the maintenance of the trees on the village greens.** She said the Village Association has been taking care of the village greens, including the trees, for many years, but that when a major limb fell off one of the maple trees recently, it brought home to the association's board not only the costs involved in maintaining aging trees but also the potential liability if someone were to be injured by a falling limb. "We're a small nonprofit," Ms. Yohalem noted, "and our income doesn't increase much over time, while our expenses go up. So our board felt it was time for us to come to the Town and ask you to take responsibility for your trees. We'll continue to take care of lawn maintenance on the greens, which we've done ever since our organization was founded, but we would like very much for the Town to take responsibility for the trees." The Board agreed and at Ms. Yohalem's request said it would send the association a letter acknowledging the Town's responsibility.

Prudence Spaulding, director of senior services for the Town, summarized for the Board **the results of the senior citizens' tax abatement work-off program** for the fiscal year that ended in June. She said twelve seniors worked a total of 669 hours, including two who worked a total of 141 hours, some of which they couldn't be compensated for because they'd reached the maximum abatement limit of \$1,000. Noting there will be an increase in the Massachusetts minimum wage next year, she said she

hopes the legislature will also increase the credit limit for the abatement program. She said she'll be writing letters to that effect to both state Senator Ben Downing and Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli.

The Board agreed to send a notice to town residents summarizing the **reasons for the nearly \$23,000 increase in the Town's assessment by the Berkshire County Retirement Fund.** The size of the increase was questioned at the Annual Town Meeting back in May but the selectmen were unable to explain why it went up so sharply, and Town Treasurer Pat Mielke, who would have been able to answer the question, was not at the meeting. The notice will explain that most of the increase is due to an increase in town salaries in the 2013 calendar year. (For the full text of the notice see page 7.)

Selectman Nat Yohalem noted that **in addition to needing a new town moderator to replace Scott Farrell, the Town will also need a replacement for Kenzie Fields on the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee,** since she has indicated she will not be running for reelection.

The Board met with three members of the Eichstedt family, Herb, Louise, and their son Jason, to discuss the **damage to their Sisson Hill (South) properties by large amounts of gravel and other road debris deposited on their lawns by the runoff from torrential rain storms** that have battered the area in recent weeks. Louise Eichstedt showed the Board a series of photographs of the inches-thick layer of gravel covering her lawn, flowers beds, and filling her frog pond, as well as images of a foot bridge lifted clear off its moorings and deposited on the lawn by the rushing water. "For the thirty-two years I've lived there I've never had this kind of issue with water on my property. Now within the last five weeks I've been flooded out three times and I've had six [cubic] yards — six big trailer truckloads — of gravel and stones coming down from the road into my yard." As Chairman Tara White noted, the Highway Department has been trying to control the runoff by, among other things, installing a larger culvert and creating a swale above their properties, but so far to little avail. As Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring said, "I've been in this business for twenty to twenty-five years, and I've done a lot of excavation, but these rains are terrible. I can't stand here and tell you I have the exact answer of how to stop it. Today, we tried

armoring the ditch along the road, and I'm hoping that's going to help, but paving the road is the answer." The Board agreed that the ultimate solution is to pave the road, but noted there's no money in the budget this year to do it. So in the meantime, the Highway Department will continue its efforts to stem the tide and hope that the rains stop soon. As they were leaving, Ms. Eichstedt presented the Board with an estimate of \$2,500 from a private contractor, Great River Construction, for removing the gravel and restoring the lawn and the brook that runs through it: "My theory," she explained, "is that this is your road and it's your gravel that invaded my property, so it's not my problem," and she went on to say in so many words that if the Town did not pay for the work it would be hearing from her attorney. Chairman White responded that the Board would consult with Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard and get back to her.

July 30: With all three selectmen present, the Board met in special session to deal with some Town personnel issues as well as other matters.

In a follow-up to last week's meeting with the Eichstedt family about the damage to their property by the runoff from the recent heavy rains, Chairman White said the Board had submitted the Eichstedts' request for a \$2,500 reimbursement for removing the gravel from their property to the Town's insurance company.

Selectman Yohalem advised the Board that the value of the house on the Spiess property at 129 Lake Road, which is about to be awarded to the Town by the Land Court for non-payment of property taxes, is approximately \$138,000, but that the real value of the property is in the land, which is on Lake Buel. Chairman White said the Town will be contacting the auctioneering firm of Sullivan and Sullivan about selling the property at auction.

The Board appointed Graham Frank acting police chief, effective August 7, the same day outgoing chief Scott Farrell's resignation takes effect. It also increased his salary to \$50,000 per annum from \$46,592 for up to ninety days while his contract details, including his salary, are being worked out, at which point he will

officially be named police chief.

The Board interviewed two candidates to replace Town Treasurer Pat Mielke, who is moving to Florida in October, and then offered the \$14,000-a-year job to one of them, Marilyn Scaglione. A resident of Sandisfield, Ms. Scaglione had previously been office manager for the Kolburne School where she handled bookkeeping and accounting duties.

August 11: With all three selectmen present, the Board met with members of the fire department to discuss the selection of KME of Newquehoning, Pennsylvania, as the supplier of the new fire truck approved by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting last May. Also present was fire truck consultant Robert J. McDermott who was brought in to assist with the bidding process. Mr. McDermott explained that KME's winning bid of \$532,455, includes a \$22,000 trade-in allowance for the 1993 pumper that the new fire truck replaces, but does not include \$17,500 of optional equipment which he said the department could obtain for less money from third-party sources. Still, the total cost of the truck including the options will come to \$550,000, which is the amount approved by the voters at the annual meeting. It is also less than the \$563,000 bid by the other finalist, Toyne Inc., of Breda, Iowa. Lead-time for delivery, according to Mr. McDermott, is ten to twelve months from when the order is placed. The Board then voted unanimously to award the contract to KME.

The Board also voted to award the paving contract for Sisson Hill Road (North) and County Road to LB Corp. of Lee, based on its low bid of \$283,749. There were three other bidders: Delsignore Paving of Troy, New York, at \$368,592, Lane Construction of Pittsfield, at \$353,817, and Tri-Town Paving, also of Lee, at \$298,145. The work is expected to be completed sometime in October, Superintendent Loring said.

The Board has learned that the federal government will no longer make heavy-duty surplus vehicles available to local towns and municipalities and instead will be scrapping them because they no longer meet federal emissions standards. This is a blow to the

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Highway Department, which over the years has relied heavily on surplus army trucks, of which it currently has two, to haul logs, big rocks and other bulky items, thus saving the Town's own fleet of trucks from excessive wear and tear. And it's not just heavy-duty trucks that will no longer be available. According to Board Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput, "It's anything that operates on diesel fuel, such as generators," of which the Town also currently has two. "We're not the only ones upset by this," noted Mr. Loring. "The whole country's in an uproar." So the Board agreed to send letters to the state's two United States senators and its United States representative protesting the new policy.

The Board has also learned that Jeff Collingwood, the Stantec Consulting engineer overseeing the Clayton Mill River Road bridge project has left the company and that his replacement, Nicolas Reitzel, who is apparently familiar with the physical aspects of the project, may not be fully up to speed on **the permitting process, which must be fully completed before the actual work can begin.** The Board and Superintendent Loring are concerned because the Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers are now **insisting an additional permit be filed that had not been anticipated when the original timelines for the project had been put together.** "It's critical that the Board meet with Mr. Reitzel as soon as possible and get him working on that permit," noted Mr. Skorput, "otherwise, the project may have to be put off for another year." The work was to have to begun this fall.

The selectmen signed a contract with Maguire Equipment Inc. of Readville, Massachusetts, for a **second compactor for the transfer station.** The new unit, costing \$25,882, will be used for single stream recycling in which all recyclables – paper, glass, plastic, and cans – are co-mingled and compacted together, a process that's expected to save the Town upwards of \$10,000 a year in hauling costs. Delivery will take four to five weeks, during which time Joe Wilkinson will pour a concrete pad for the unit, while Dan Litchfield will do the electrical work.

The Board voted to issue a **one-day beer and wine permit** to Berkshire Hatchery Foundation for its annual lobster festival to be held on August 24.

Chairman White said the state Land Court has now granted the Town ownership of the Lake Buel waterfront property owned by the Spiess family for nonpayment of taxes. The 0.58-acre parcel, which includes a house valued at \$138,000, is located at 129 Lake Road. She said the Town has already been in touch with the Sullivan and Sullivan auctioneering firm of Sandwich, Mass., which is planning to auction the property on Saturday, September 27, at the Town Hall.

Selectman Yohalem said he and Administrative Assistant Skorput met with Sheffield Board of Selectmen Chairman David Smith and Town Administrator Rhonda LaBombard to **discuss the sharing of services and equipment,** a process that's increasingly being characterized as regionalization. He described the meeting as "fully cooperative, better than I expected," saying both towns "believe it's advantageous to share, and that if we can get more towns involved that would be fine too." They discussed, among other things, sharing a \$120,000 mower, a \$40,000 small paver, and a trailer with a hot box used for transporting warm asphalt. He said they also talked about the possibility of combining police coverage in certain areas, sharing emergency services, and leveraging the two towns' purchasing power to get a better price on everything from sand and gravel to office supplies. A follow-up meeting is set for September 12, to which Monterey and Egremont have been invited.

And finally, Board Secretary Sharon Fleck said the **Foley Bridge on Canaan Southfield Road, which officially reopened August 4, came in \$30,000 under budget** and that the town is planning to use \$28,000 of that for additional guard rails for the bridge, provided the state signs off on it. Later in the week, according to Ms. Fleck, the state did in fact sign off on the \$28,000 expenditure for additional guard rails for the bridge, and they have now been installed. □

Peter Schuyten

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At the Annual Town Meeting in May, there was unanswered concern about why New Marlborough's responsibility to the Berkshire County Retirement was so high. As a result, the Board of Selectmen met with Sheila Labarbara of the retirement program on July 14 to discuss the issue. Below is their report on the explanation of the Town's assessment.



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Tara B. White, Chair
Michele Shalaby
Nathaniel H. Yohalem

To the Residents of New Marlborough from the New Marlborough Board of Selectmen

At our Annual Town Meeting, questions arose regarding the Town's payments to the Berkshire Regional Retirement System. The Selectboard was asked why the Town's contribution is so high and why it increased significantly this year.

After discussion and a meeting with the representative of the Retirement System and after reviewing Town records, we arrived at the answers.

Background – The Retirement System is in lieu of Social Security for almost all contributors. The contributions consist of 9% of earnings up to \$30,000 and an additional 2% for earnings over \$30,000. Overtime wages are not included. The System was underfunded when it began so that part of the annual assessment includes money to “catch up.” The County estimates that the System will be completely funded in about 10 years at which time our assessment will dramatically decrease.

Why is the Town's assessment so high? – Our assessment is approximately \$100,000. Of that sum, approximately \$13,700 results from a decision by the Selectboard in 2002 to adopt an early retirement program. This program includes 3 former employees. The good news is that this extra cost will end in 2 years which means that our assessment will decrease by that amount thereafter.

Why did the assessment increase significantly this year? Assessments vary each year due to salary changes. The System is one year behind in calculating assessments because it uses calendar-year earnings rather than fiscal-year earnings. The assessment for this year was based on employee earnings for the year ended December 2013. A review of our payroll indicated that there was an increase of approximately \$100,000 in salaries between the end of 2012 and the end of 2013.

Most of the increase resulted from the addition of an administrative secretary, an increase in police coverage, increased stipends to the emergency services squad, an increase in salary for emergency management, increased highway department salaries and a 2% across the board salary increase to all employees.

We believe this response answers the questions raised at the Annual Meetings. If anyone has further questions, we would be happy to address them.

Sincerely,

Tara B. White

Michele Shalaby

Nat Yohalem

PLANNING BOARD

A New Slate whether the Planning Board? When its proposal to distinguish between village zoning and zoning for rural areas was rejected by a more than two-to-one margin at a Special Town Meeting last November, the Board could have been forgiven if it had quietly decided to pull up stakes and fade away. Instead it is forging ahead. For the first time in years, the Board has a full complement of five elected members, who have reorganized, and elected Patricia Hardyman, chair, Holly Morse, vice chair, and Judy Hattendorf, secretary. (Jamie Mullen and Charlie Parton round out the Board.)

It is now focusing on what went wrong and what to do about it. "It was a failure of communication," says Ms. Hardyman. "The benefits to individuals in the revised zoning regulations were not made clear; it felt like more regulation."

Before it begins to formulate another blueprint for the future of the town, the Board will try to close that communication gap. "Better outreach," says Ms. Hardyman, "connection with the townspeople in terms of their concerns. We will be soliciting input to determine what is important to the community."

Seeing the virtue of outreach is one thing; achieving it another. "Engagement has been a challenge," says Ms. Hardyman. In the months before the November Special Town Meeting, the Planning Board held a number of informational meetings at which it put forward the benefits of the revisions: to define the town's five villages, permit village-scale growth in those zones and to lift restrictions on certain commercial activities that require special permitting under present zoning regulations. It fielded suggestions for fine-tuning and generally received a positive response to the revision. But attendance at the meetings was generally scant and, in hindsight, did not represent the broad-based opposition to the direction the Board was taking. So to get a better understanding of the town's hopes and fears, Board members plan to meet individually with the more vocal opponents of its previous effort.

Meanwhile, the Board is moving ahead with a minor

bylaw revision that would permit homeowners to add an accessory apartment "by right." The current bylaws do not address accessory apartments. According to Ms. Hardyman, this provision is aimed at helping homeowners who may wish to provide living space for, say, a caretaker or an adult child.

"We are their Planning Board; they elected us," says Ms. Hardyman. "We need to build trust, support, and participation."

Joe Poindexter

Reports from two subsequent meetings indicate that the Planning Board is moving ahead toward these goals. Updates on further progress will be reported as it occurs.

July 23: The meeting, with Patricia Hardyman, Chair, Judy Hattendorf, Jamie Mullen, and Charlie Parton in attendance, opened with a review of the mail and approval of the minutes of the June 11 meeting.

Jane Tant was introduced and approved by voice vote of the Board to be the clerk of the Planning Board for one year. She will attend meetings and supply minutes.

A motion carried to approve all provisions of the Draft Accessory Apartment By-law of May 21, 2014 as a prospective addition to the "by right" section of the Township Protective Bylaws.

Judy Hattendorf provided a first draft of "2014 Planning Board Goals and Strategies" based upon discussion at the June 11 meeting. Discussion ensued on how to implement specific strategies in support of the first goal, "Gain community trust and support".

August 13: The meeting, with Patricia Hardyman, Chair, Judy Hattendorf, Jamie Mullen, and Charlie Parton in attendance, opened with a review of the mail and approval of the minutes of the July 23 meeting.

At the invitation of the Planning Board, Selectman Michele Shalaby attended as part of the first phase of the Planning Board Goals and Strategies. She took part in a lively discussion of ways to improve communication with the community. □

Pam Stebbins

CHANGES IN THE OFFING

In a letter addressed to each Southfield postal customer dated July 17, the United States Postal Service (USPS) set out the revised hours of service for the Southfield Post Office. The body of the letter signed by Tatiana Roy, Postplan Coordinator, states: "It has been determined that the Southfield Post Office will provide six hours of window service each weekday. Current Saturday window service hours will not be reduced and access to delivery receptacles will not change as a result of the POST Plan realignment

of weekday window service hours." In a telephone conversation with Maureen Marion of the USPS, it was learned that the weekday service hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. Apparently Saturday hours will remain the same as they are now, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The effective date of these new hours has not yet been made public. Ms. Marion said it could be anywhere between September 1 and January 1, 2015.

David Lowman

DIGGING OUT THE NUMBERS

The Capital Planning Committee doesn't yet have the answers, but it does have the questions. Formed last June by the Board of Selectmen to help even out Town expenditures with tax assessments, the Committee — the members are Bill Hattendorf, Dave Herrick, Ned Odegaard, John Schreiber, and Michele Shalaby — has narrowed its focus to the Town's three major assets:

*Roads. Beyond the Chapter 90 funds the state contributes, the Committee wants to determine the average annual cost of maintaining Town roads. Fortunately, a recent survey by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, called "Road Condition Report," presents a detailed account of the condition and repair needs of the Town's roads as of this year. The Committee also plans to research past years' warrants and Reserve Fund transfers specified for road repair.

*Vehicles. Within the highway, fire and rescue, and police departments, the Town owns some fifteen vehicles. The Committee is drawing up an inventory of the fleet according to size and type, so as to develop an accurate picture of life-spans and maintenance schedules.

*Buildings and Land. The Town owns the Highway Department garage and outbuildings, the library, and the Town Hall. The Committee will determine what, if any, responsibility the Town has for the upkeep of the New Marlborough Central School building. Its land holdings include Umpachene Falls Park and the Town's eleven cemeteries. The Committee is seeking to confirm that the Town is obligated to provide new cemetery space (it's running out) and, if so, whether the cemetery trust fund could help finance the purchase of additional land.

These are the most pressing issues; the Committee will also be looking into investment in such technological improvements as broadband delivery of the internet. Its main goal, however, is to lay out a smooth pathway for funding big-ticket purchases over the next ten to twenty years and eliminate the abrupt changes in tax assessments that go in lock-step with the immediate

needs of the annual budget. A report, due November 1, will set forth a long-term strategy and recommend both capital expenditures and how to pay for them in fiscal 2016. One small measure it will propose: integrate the software used by the Town accountant, the treasurer and the tax collector. Right now, their computers can't talk to each other.

The Capital Planning Committee has no executive power. It serves at the pleasure of the Board of Selectmen — and ultimately the citizens of New Marlborough. "We want to give people a basis on which to make decisions," says Michele Shalaby, who chaired the Committee through its first two meetings — it has revolved to Ned Odegaard for the next phase of its activities. She hopes that the Committee's report, plus meetings with taxpayers, will engender a healthy debate over the wisest course to meet the Town's financial obligations.

The Committee itself will disband when its report is turned in, unless the selectmen renew its charter. At least one state official, Zack Blake of the Department of Revenue, thinks it should, through a change in the Town by-laws, be made permanent. □

Joe Poindexter

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CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Graham Frank Is Named Acting Police Chief

by Joe Poindexter

Some people go their entire lives without finding their true calling. Graham Frank found his in high school. "I went to Mount Greylock," he says, "and in the fourth quarter of my senior year [in 2005], I was accepted for an internship with the Williamstown Police Department." Learning dispatching and riding with the chief and other officers, Graham distinguished himself as one of the best interns in the program and was awarded a certificate of achievement by the mayor of Pittsfield. The Williamstown PD thought so highly of their intern, they created a job for him as ranger of the town's Margaret Linley Park during the summer after his graduation, then hired him as a part-time dispatcher.

Part-time work in Williamstown and a full-time job as police, ambulance, and fire department dispatcher in North Adams led to positions on the Sheffield and New Marlborough police forces in 2009. Sheffield sponsored Graham in a twenty-one-week course at the Municipal Police Training Academy in Springfield, from which he graduated in August 2010. On August 7, almost exactly four years later, Graham was appointed acting chief of the New Marlborough Police Department. At age twenty-seven (he will be twenty-eight in October), he is currently the youngest police chief in Berkshire County.

Graham has deep roots in the Berkshires. His family is from Great Barrington, where his grandfather was assistant fire chief and superintendent of the fire district. Graham's mother, the Rev. Jill Graham, serves Old Parish Church in Sheffield. Graham currently lives in Sheffield, just across the New Marlborough town border, with his son Shaun, 7, and his parents.



Graham Frank photo by Joe Poindexter

His immediate goal with his new responsibilities is to increase the flow of information between the police department and New Marlborough's citizens, and reach out to the community with timely information and formal classes. Expressing gratitude for the training made available to him under former Police Chief Scott Farrell, Graham says he would like to offer a so-called RAD (for rape aggression defense) course in the near future. He is a certified RAD instructor. Additionally, he foresees collaborating with the Land Trust in keeping the roads free of debris, citing the broken-window theory that

an unkempt neighborhood can lead to lack of respect for property and, eventually, an increase in crime. And if you need a child seat installed in your car, Graham is your man. He is certified. "Some of those manuals are an inch thick," he says of the instructions that come with some seats.

Traffic, of course, is a continual concern. Graham is inclined to write more warnings than fines, but there is still the safety of pedestrians, bikers, and other motorists to keep in mind. The department clocked one vehicle on Mill River Great Barrington Road at seventy-five miles per hour and ticketed a driver passing the Old Inn on the Green at sixty-nine. Illegal drug distribution, a problem a few years ago, has abated, "but we are seeing more burglaries," says Graham.

Ultimately, he says, the agenda of his department is set by the residents of New Marlborough. "I don't want people to need a police officer and not have one show up," says the new chief. "The Police Department serves the town and all of its citizens." □

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HAIL (AND FAREWELL) TO THE CHIEF

By David Lowman

At its meeting on Saturday, July 12, the New Marlborough Board of Selectmen announced that Police Chief Scott Farrell had notified the Board that he would be “resigning very soon.” True to his word, Mr. Farrell submitted his resignation as police chief on August 7. The Board then named Officer Graham Frank as acting chief of police.

Mr. Farrell has been a police officer in New Marlborough since 2007, starting as a part-time officer, then taking the chief’s position after Paul Harvey, the previous chief, retired in 2008. Asked to characterize his experience as chief of police, Mr. Farrell said it has been rewarding and satisfying to see the police department evolve and develop. He noted the strong support of the community and that there had been minimal friction. When asked about the number of citations the department had written, Mr. Farrell said there were now “quite a few – 300-400 this year.” He pointed out, however, that slightly more than half of that number were written warnings and not financial penalties.

As chief, Mr. Farrell installed a software program on the department’s computer that sorts and catalogs data related to local police activity that will allow the department to analyze data such as problem areas, locations, types of crimes, and responses. This program, developed by TriTech Software Systems, is capable of being used by fire departments and emergency medical services as well as police.

Mr. Farrell will take at least a one-year break from police work. His “day job” has been as a high school science teacher, most recently with the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. He, his wife Melissa, and their two sons, Owen and Bradley, are moving to Marshfield, Massachusetts, and Scott and Melissa will work as curriculum managers in the Silver Lake Regional School District: he with grade 7-12 science curriculum, and she with the total curriculum for grades K-6. “She has the better job,” Mr. Farrell opined. Their new responsibilities kicked in on August 20. □



Scott Farrell
photo by David Lowman

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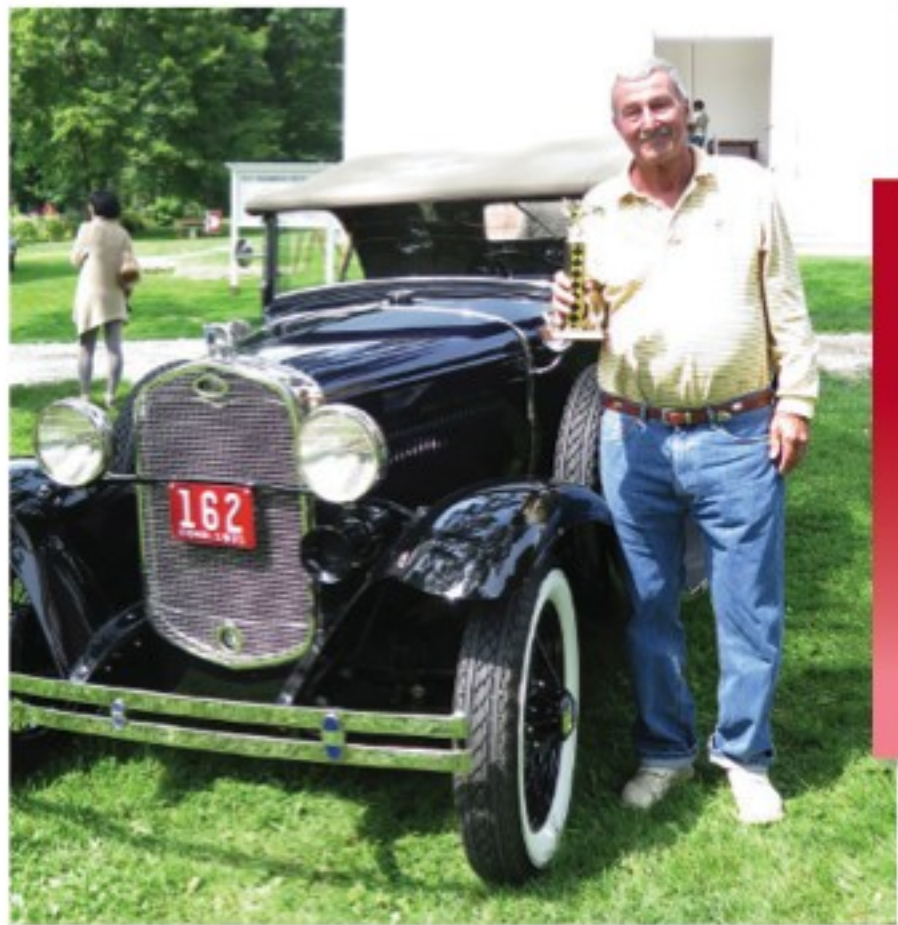
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ELIHU BURRITT DAY 2014





Elihu Burritt Day, August 16, dawned cool, clear, and dry, setting the stage for another enjoyable day of community activity. Whether it was running, juggling, face-painting, hay-riding, or just browsing the booths and exhibits, people had time to relax and catch up with friends and neighbors. Activity shifted to the firehouse in Southfield in the evening for the annual Pig Roast and dancing to Cornerstone's music. Photos on these pages were contributed by Larry Burke, Barry Shapiro, Jerry Tilles, Stephanie Madden, and Daniel Smith.



Neighbors



Dorothea Burnett, of Southfield, passed away on July 28, a scant six months shy of her 100th birthday. She moved to Southfield in 1945 when she and **Edward Burnett** were married, and for decades was the fourth grade teacher at New Marlborough Central School in Mill River. She was an avid quilter, a founding member of Berkshire Quilters, and one of the creators of the Town's 250th Anniversary quilt. She was also a dedicated gardener and a member of the Berkshire chapter of the American Rock Garden Society; her gardens were part of the New Marlborough Garden Tour in 2010. For over ten years, right up through last summer, she presented awards to the winners of the 5K Run and Walk at Elihu Burritt Day. Her quiet contributions and community service will be sorely missed.



photo by Barbara Lowman

Dorothea Burnett

Southfield playwright **Michael Brady** had a staged reading of his new play, *The Season*, presented by the Berkshire Playwrights Lab at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington on August 13. An audience of approximately 200 was in attendance and received the play enthusiastically. Michael noted that usually at a staged reading, the audience questions afterwards point out areas of confusion or ambiguity that need to be clarified or fine-tuned. After this reading, however, the audience seemed to be very much in tune with the play, and while this didn't give focus for further refinements, Michael was pleased that it seemed to reinforce the choices that he had made in constructing the play. This was confirmed by New Marlborough resident **Ben Harms**, who felt that the play was well thought out and that the characters were well developed.



photo by David Lowman

Michael Brady

Dora Burke, of South Sandisfield Road, greeted her new baby brother, **Lionel**, on August 16. Lionel is the son of **Marley**, one of Mill River's most distinguished citizens, who lives with **Dan Alden** and **April Burch**. Lionel was speechless in this encounter, but Dora opined that she'd have the young 'un whipped into shape in short order. Observer **Larry Burke**, though somewhat sleep-deprived, said that Dora's program was going according to plan. □

Compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com



photo by Larry Burke

SENIOR LUNCHEON

More than twenty-five seniors enjoyed the second luncheon of the summer, sponsored by the New Marlborough Council on Aging, which was held on August 2 in the Southfield Church Hall. Mrs. Carol Dupre from the Western Massachusetts Food Bank explained the purpose and process for applying for this federally-funded program available to those seniors who qualify.

The season's third and last luncheon is being planned for October. Seniors will receive a written invitation. □

Prudence Spaulding
Director of Senior Services



08 04

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On July 15, **Richard Butt and Molly Gilmore**, of Southfield, write: We thought that you might be interested in these photos — one of a **coyote**, the other of a **bear** — both taken by motion-activated cameras strapped to trees near our house on Foley Hill Road.



On July 16, **Jean Pollock**, of New Marlborough village, writes: It was a bright, hot, sunny day, and my son Dan and I were almost home when we saw a **coyote** trotting right down the middle of Route 57 toward us. It was not the least bit shy or in a hurry. It padded across the street, turned into Barbara Bean's driveway and went up behind her house, but not before it stopped and stared at us as we stopped to stare at it!

A bit later in the afternoon our daughter-in-law Julie stopped by to show us some pictures that she had snapped of the coyote a few minutes before we had seen it. The children had been having a class at the Meeting House and had eaten their lunches outside. The coyote had wandered around the lawn, found a discarded sandwich, and had it for a snack. It was in no hurry, which is why Julie could take pictures without any fear of its rushing off before she could snap them!



On August 4, **Robin Tost**, of Mill River, writes: My latest news is an on-going battle with a **great blue heron** who has discovered my very small fish pond filled with truly stupid (or innocent) goldfish who, when they see someone large standing at the edge, rush forward to be fed, only to find that they are the intended food. I feel like a murderer. The pond is now bristling with nets on poles, fake heron decoys, and aged screen doors laid over the water, and still he returns.

On August 5, Robin adds: The heron won. There isn't a single fish left. I'm sad — had them for ten years.

On August 13, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, writes: Going over Hayes Hill last Thursday, I saw this **coyote** on the eastern side of hill, also a smaller one.

photo by Don Beauchamp



On August 13, **Ian Devine**, of New Marlborough village, writes: It's the story of the three bears.

First, a sighting of a **black bear** at Steepletop by my daughter Lydia's boyfriend, who was grilling salmon outdoors. Bear paid absolutely no attention to what could have been a free meal.

Couple of weeks later my daughter's law school classmate was jogging on Route 57 near the Sandisfield State Forest and a **bear** stood quietly on its hind legs in the middle of the road (until the friend turned and jogged back down the road).

Finally, a telephone pole at Steepletop has a little black junction box about eight feet up. One morning the box was twisted and the cable leading to it snapped — claw marks way up the pole being the only clue to the culprit. Did the bear think it was robbing a birdhouse? □

Compiled by Jon Swan, joncswan@gmail.com

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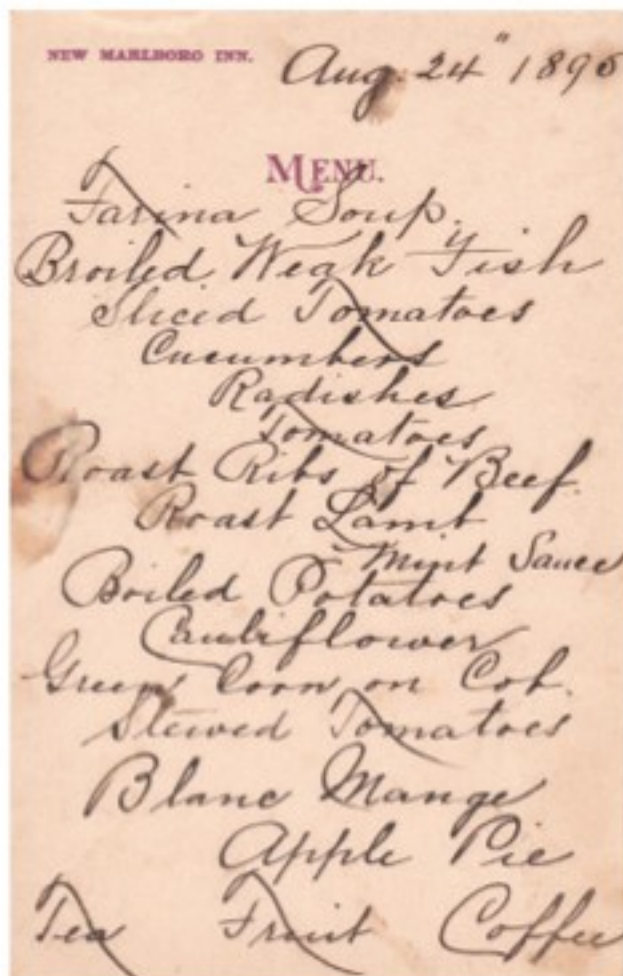
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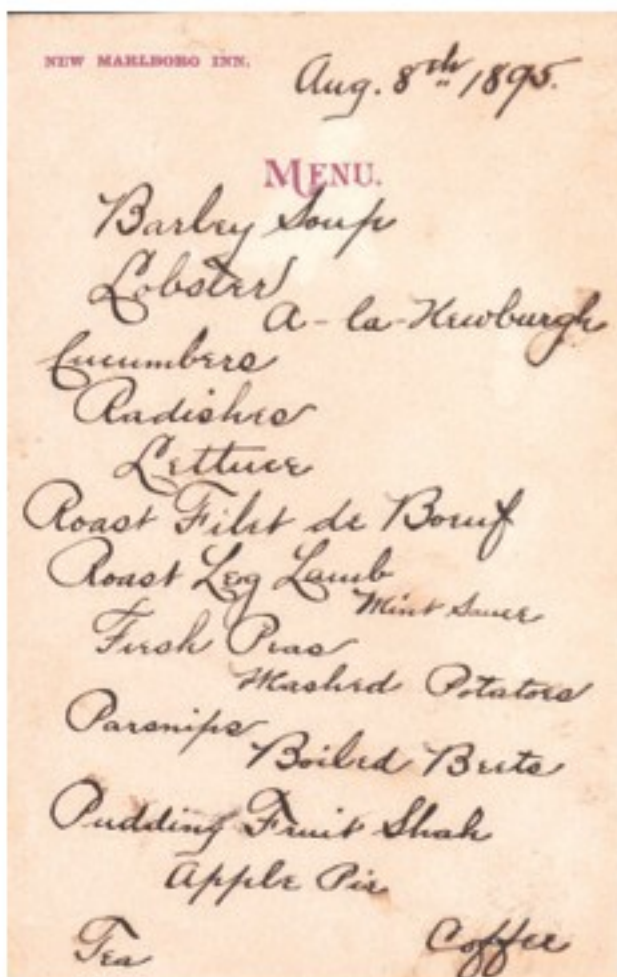
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OUT OF THE PAST: DINING ELEGANCE



There was a time when pen and ink — remember them? — were a medium of communication, and penmanship itself a means of expression. Case in point: the New Marlboro Inn (now the Old Inn on the Green), whose menus in August 1895 were as tasteful as its cuisine. (They were rescued in the early 1980s from the New Marlborough dump, long before it was a transfer station, by David Lowman and Nick Hardcastle.) Despite their antique



elegance, however, the menus offer a repast that is not a radical departure from what Peter Platt and Meredith Kennard, current owners of the inn, serve their guests. “It is strikingly contemporary,” says Mr. Platt, “just what you’d get from your garden in August.”

“Classic New England,” says Ms. Kennard, and similar to the uncluttered approach favored at the Old Inn today. “We would brighten up the flavors,” says Mr. Platt. “Our desserts are a little more involved,” says Ms. Kennard. But their approach to fresh food, simply prepared, hearkens back a century and more. Now, if they could just find someone to pen their menus.

Joe Poindexter

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A MUSICAL OFFERING — IN SOUTHFIELD



The Southfield Church was suffused with evening light as the notes of a Bach prelude and fugue filled the nave. On August 6, music arrived brilliantly in Southfield.

The church's inaugural concert featured a stunning performance on piano by Gabi Makuc, a Monterey resident, who began playing at age five and is now studying music and religion as a junior at Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin. Ms. Makuc flawlessly traversed works, in addition to the Bach, by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Chopin, and Samuel Barber, all from memory. She also accompanied Robert Olsen in a resonant performance of two songs for baritone by the contemporary American composer Morten Lauridsen.

The concert, an unexpected midweek gift to the people of Southfield and beyond, was the inspiration of Mr. Olsen, who obtained a baby grand piano for the church and prevailed on Ms. Makuc to give the church's first concert. He even provided post-concert ice-cream sundaes. The event, he wrote in the concert program, "is another milestone in this church's efforts to welcome everyone in our community." Plans for future such events are underway. □

Joe Poindexter

UPCOMING: *Events Calendar September and October*

September 9: Massachusetts State Primary, Town Hall, polls open 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

September 13: **Headstone Cleaning Day;** join the New Marlborough Historical Society in a morning of headstone restoration, 10:00 a.m. to noon at the New Marlborough cemetery. Picnic lunch to follow — all welcome.

September 13: **Karen Akers** returns to the Meeting House for what promises to be another standing-room-only performance, this time an American Songbook presentation she calls "Time Flies"; tickets are \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association; 4:30 p.m., with a wine-tasting hosted by Domaney's to follow the concert.

September 20: **Land Trust hike** to the Lower Carroll Mill; meet at 10:00 a.m. at the back of the Mill River Cemetery (just north of the Highway Department garage) to see the best-preserved of the New Marlborough mills. All welcome.

September 20: **Lydian String Quartet** playing works by Schubert, Ravel, and Shostakovich; tickets are \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association; 4:30 p.m., with a reception in the Meeting House Gallery to follow the concert. A pre-concert talk, led by first violinist Daniel Stepner, starts at 3:30 p.m.

September 27: **Award-Winning Authors**, presenting, in a reprise of the first Meeting House program of authors twenty years ago, Paul Auster and Roy Blount, Jr. The third author in the original program, Siri Hustvedt, had a prior commitment and will be represented by documentarian Ellen Weissbrod, who will screen clips of her film on a seventeenth century woman artist, who confronted problems similar to those of the protagonist of Ms. Hustvedt's latest novel. Tickets are \$15, \$10 to Village Association members. A book signing and reception follow in the Meeting House Gallery.

October 5: **Land Trust hike** in Cookson State Forest; destination: a mill site beyond Thousand Acre Pond — 10:00 a.m. at the boat ramp off Hotchkiss Road. All welcome.

PULLING UP STAKES

They started the last day of March. Two hundred and thirty-six tons of concrete, two gleaming spans of guard rail, and 126 days later, they were done. By mid-afternoon on August 4, the confounding network of detour signs between Mill River and Southfield were gone, and the bridge on Canaan Southfield Road was again open for business. Just for the record, the project also consumed about 140 cubic yards of stone for rip rap, 6,500 pounds of structural steel, and 100 tons of bituminous concrete.

Rebuilding the Canaan Southfield Road bridge presented two challenges, according to Phil Scalise, manager of the Estimating Department of J. H. Maxymillian, Inc., the Pittsfield contractor that handled the project. The first were the existing foundations. "We were able to work around them, remove the damaged portions, salvage the intact portions and keep the project on schedule,"



says Mr. Scalise. The second was the Konkapot River. Foundation repair required "working in the dry," as Mr. Scalise puts it. So the Maxymillian crew set up cofferdams to keep water out of the work area and pumped out the ground water that seeped in.

The bridge might have been completed earlier except that surfacing and guard rails had to wait for the placement of rip-rap on the banks of the river, and that work was prohibited, because of environmental concerns, until July 1. "You had the absolute toughest permit," said Bill Magni, project supervisor of the bridge project. Once the banks were secure, the macadam was poured, the guard rails went in, and the signs came down. Although

it may have felt like eons, the job was actually completed twenty-seven days ahead of schedule. □

Joe Poindexter

Photos by Joe Poindexter



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Sept 6 Carol Wincenc, Flute; Escher String Quartet

Internationally acclaimed flutist, Carol Wincenc, is joined by the Escher String Quartet. Music by Mozart, Devienne, Haydn, Debussy and Yuko Uebayashi's *Misericordia* for Flute and String Quartet (composed in 2013 for Ms. Wincenc).

Carol Wincenc: "An impeccable flute soloist." —The New York Times

Escher Quartet: "... total focus, unflagging energy, bottomless technique and, perhaps most important, rare musical insight..." —The Denver Post



Sept 20 Lydian String Quartet

Free Pre-Concert Talk at 3:30pm
Daniel Stepner and Judith Eissenberg, violin; Mark Berger, viola; Joshua Gordon, cello

Winners of the Naumburg Award for chamber music, the Lydian String Quartet has demonstrated "a precision and involvement marking them as among the world's best quartets" (Chicago Sun-Times).

Franz Schubert: Quartet No. 13 in A minor, Op. 29, D. 804, "Rosamunde"; Maurice Ravel: Quartet in F major; Dmitri Shostakovich: Elegy and Polka; Lee Hyla, Quartet No. 3 (composed for the Lydian).



Sept 13 Time Flies! Karen Akers

American Songbook *Don Rebic, piano*

One of America's premiere concert and cabaret stars. *Post-concert gala wine tasting hosted by Domaney's of Great Barrington.*



Sept 27 Award-Winning Authors ~ 20th Anniversary!

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The careers and current work of Paul Auster, Roy Blount Jr. and Siri Hustved, the same trio of writers who inaugurated the program in 1994. Special Guest, documentary filmmaker Ellen Weissbrod with clips from her recent prize-winning film. *Book signing at the reception.*

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RECYCLING DO'S AND DON'TS

by Joe Poindexter

As Roger Levine, the Town's solid waste coordinator, never tires of reminding us, it's not a dump, it's a transfer station. So where does all the stuff we dump – make that transfer – go? According to Mr. Levine, the household wastes are compacted and trucked to either a landfill in Canaan, New York, or an incinerator in Pittsfield; construction and demolition refuse go the Canaan landfill; scrap metal is taken to a scrap metal dealer in North Adams; and paper, glass, and tins are delivered to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (SMRF). But SMRF is a bit more discriminating than many of us are aware. Recently it sent the Town a table of recycling do's and don'ts, which contains a few surprises. Here's the list:

ALUMINUM

Yes: cans, foil, pie pans, trays

No: siding, scrap metal, foil-wrapped beverage pouches, pots and pans, utensils, tools

STEEL

Yes: beverage, soup, pet food cans (empty and rinsed), empty aerosol spray cans

No: hangers, scrap metal, paint cans, pots and pans, utensils, tools, toys, appliances, pipes, fuel tanks, auto parts, aerosol spray cans that contained paint, insecticides, and other hazardous products

PLASTICS:

Yes: food containers (empty and rinsed; leave caps on), beverage bottles (2.5 gallons and less), detergent and dish soap bottles, shampoo and other personal-care containers, clear clamshell containers

No: plastic bags and wrap, styrofoam, cups, plates, utensils, straws, cellophane, egg cartons, pill bottles, laundry baskets, toys, flower pots, five-gallon pails, dry-cleaner and garment bags, patio furniture, motor oil containers, kiddie pools, hose, PVC piping, Nalgene water bottles, tarps, VCR tapes, CDs

CARTONS (recycled with containers, not paper)

Yes: milk, soy milk, juice, soup cartons (emptied, rinsed and crushed, remove all straws)

No: foil-wrapped pouches, frozen juice and food packaging

GLASS

Yes: food and beverage jars (empty and rinsed, but no need to remove labels)

No: ceramics, baking dishes, dishware, drinking glasses, broken glass, Pyrex cookware, coffee mugs, medicine bottles, plate glass, mirrors, light bulbs, fluorescent lights, eye glasses, vases, jars, holiday lights, windows, glass art

PAPER

Yes: envelopes (okay with windows, staples, paper clips, tape), newspapers, magazines, construction paper, clean pizza boxes, corrugated boxes (flatten), paperback books, phone books, cereal boxes, gift wrap (but without metallic inks, foil, or glitter)

No: beer cartons, egg cartons, cups, plates, paper towels, napkins, tissues, butter and margarine boxes, padded envelopes, hardcover books, paper contaminated with paint or pet waste, stickers, frozen food boxes, copy paper packaging, blueprints

As reported in an earlier *5 Village News*, the transfer station plans to adopt single-stream recycling, which means that paper, glass, and tins will all go into a single compactor. According to Mr. Levine, the compactor should be on-site by early October. The time you save can soon be devoted to a more thorough perusal of the offerings in the "Gift Shop."

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THE LOG

POLICE DEPARTMENT (SELECTED ENTRIES)

July 1	8:57 p.m.	Hillside Avenue resident says a bear has been hanging around the neighborhood all week.	1:20 p.m.	Resident requests radar to stop speeders past her house on Hayes Hill Road.	
July 3	9:14 p.m.	Driver stuck on a washed-out section of Sisson Hill Road.	1:30 p.m.	Radar patrol posted at intersection of Hayes Hill and Brewer Hill Roads.	
July 5	8:06 p.m.	Two black horses loose on Route 57.	July 17	4:49 p.m.	Possible trespasser erected a tent and clothesline on property in Hartsville.
July 6	4:38 p.m.	Home owner on Clayton Mill River Road reports that a driver, attempting to turn around, backed into his mailbox, knocked it down, and then drove off.	5:20 p.m.	Stolen, a large pink and black ball used by a horse residing on Hartsville Mill River Road.	
July 7	8:04 a.m.	Truck hits tree on Brewer Hill Road; no injuries.	July 19	9:10 a.m.	Resident on Calkins Cross Road attacked by a swarm of bees.
	10:23 a.m.	Utility pole leaning into roadway in Southfield village.	July 23	3:07 p.m.	Norfolk Road resident reports nearby gun shots.
July 9	11:54 p.m.	Tree on utility wires on Downs Road.	July 24	9:32 a.m.	Clayton Mill River Road resident reports domestic disturbance.
July 10	10:38 a.m.	Tree on utility wires on Route 57.	July 28	4:37 p.m.	Tree on utility wires on Canaan Southfield Road blocks traffic.
July 11	9:18 a.m.	Resident near Umpachene Falls fears a dog's barking at the park indicates a possible injury to the owner. Investigation reveals that the dog is playing in the river.	4:54 p.m.	Fallen tree prevents visitors to Umpachene Falls Park from departing.	
July 15	2:17 a.m.	Responding to burglar alarm, investigators find fresh footprints in the garden of a residence on New Marlborough Sandisfield Road; owner reveals that the footprints belong to him.	4:56 p.m.	Tree on utility wires on Mill River Southfield Road.	
July 16	6:01 a.m.	Tree on utility wires -Sisson Hill Road.	5:03 p.m.	Tree on utility wires on Hadsell Street.	
			July 30	11:00 a.m.	Resident of Mill River Great Barrington Road reports being awakened at 3:00 a.m. by loud party at neighbor's house with car horns beeping as party-goers departed.

In addition to the selected entries above, the department issued forty moving violation citations and responded to seventeen false alarms from fire, burglar, and carbon monoxide detectors.

FIRE AND RESCUE

July 3	5:26 p.m.	Brewer Hill Road Fire Alarm	July 19	9:09 a.m.	Calkins Cross Road Medical Call
July 6	11:33 a.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Power Line Down	July 20	7:35 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
July 6	5:50 p.m.	Foley Hill Road Medical Call	July 23	3:56 p.m.	Shea Lane Medical Call
July	8:05 a.m.	Brewer Hill Road Medical Call	July 23	7:07 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
July 7	10:35 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Fire Alarm	July 23	8:10 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Structure Fire
July 8	12:22 p.m.	Foley Hill Road Medical Call	July 24	10:10 a.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
July 8	2:12 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm	July 26	10:39 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Fire Alarm
July 9	3:30 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm	July 27		Adsit Crosby Road Fire Alarm
July 10	2:27 a.m.	Hadsell Street Fire Alarm	July 28	11:33 a.m.	Downs Road CO Alarm
July 15	8:45 p.m.	Foley Hill Road Medical Call	July 28	5:06 p.m.	Mill River Southfield Road Tree Down
July 17	1:36 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call	July 30	5:50 a.m.	Hartsville Mill River Road Furnace Malfunction
July 17	7:30 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Animal Rescue			

NEW ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL WELCOMED

by Jane Burke

Superintendent David Hastings has high hopes for the new interim elementary principal for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, Thomas Simon. After reviewing thirty applications, Hastings was impressed with Simon's extensive experience in education, especially his skill in relationship building. Mr. Hastings said in an interview, "Others have praised him as an innovative problem-solver with strong people and technology skills, able to see the "big picture" and map a course to meet district goals. I am confident that he can establish positive relationships needed for success in our schools."

Mr. Simon will oversee the education programs of Undermountain Elementary School in Sheffield, New Marlborough Central School, South Egremont School and the Monterey School, which includes a total of about 430 students and sixty-five faculty and staff members. The majority of faculty members are veteran educators, who have had to adjust to a number of principals over the past decade.

Mr. Simon is not new to the district. In the 1990s he was a middle school alternative program clinical instructor at Mount Everett. After leaving the district he was special needs teacher at Morningside Community School in Pittsfield where he eventually became principal. He spent the past five years working as the director of special education for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District in Great Barrington. "I'm actually very excited about getting back here, where I got my start, and especially getting back into the elementary school. I'm looking forward to working with the families, some of which include the kids of kids I used to teach," Mr. Simon said.

His education includes Pittsfield High School and Berkshire Community College where he was a business

major, but special education became his passion. He went on to Westfield State University where he earned a bachelor's degrees in liberal studies/special education and business administration. His master's degree in education

comes from Cambridge College. He is certified as a principal/assistant principal, superintendent/assistant superintendent, special education administrator, and as a special needs teacher.

The Simon family lives in Pittsfield. The three youngest children, Eva, Anthony, and Joshua attend schools in Pittsfield and are active in local sports, music, and theater. Their oldest son Jonathan lives nearby with his girlfriend Lexi and their son Eli. The family is active in local soccer and running teams with Mr. Simon

coaching soccer, baseball, and a Lego Robotics team.

In a recent interview he talked about his commitment to being a good steward for the schools. "Each of the elementary schools is unique and special but each has its own challenges. I hope to offer a stabilizing atmosphere and devote time for face-to-face discussions with teachers so I can understand their needs. As a principal, I need to build consensus so that we can get everyone going in the same direction."

He explained that this summer he has been building relationships with the administrative team. "The principal cannot be an expert in everything. Engaging the talents of the district experts is key to providing the best solutions." He is likely to have an open door to community members. □



Tom Simon

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Eden in Winter, by Richard North Patterson
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The Visitor, by Sally Beauman
Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932, by Francine Prose
The Lost Island, by Douglas Preston

Adult Nonfiction

A Spy Among Friends: Kim Philby and the Great Betrayal, by Ben Macintyre
In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette, by Hampton Sides
Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered, by Dianne Hales
The Mockingbird Next Door: Life with Harper Lee, by Marja Mills
Blood Feud: The Clintons Vs. the Obamas, by Edward Klein

Children's Fiction

Flashlight, by Lizi Boyd
Pete the Cat and the New Guy, by Kimberly Dean
The Orchestra Pit, by Johanna Wright
Pumpkin Time, by Erzsébet Deak
Books Always Everywhere, by Jane Blatt

Children's Nonfiction

Look Up!: Bird Watching in Your Own Backyard, by Annette LeBlanc Cate
When Lunch Fights Back: Wickedly Clever Animal Defenses, by Rebecca L. Johnson
Track That Scat!, by Lisa Morlock



FALL LIBRARY HOURS

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

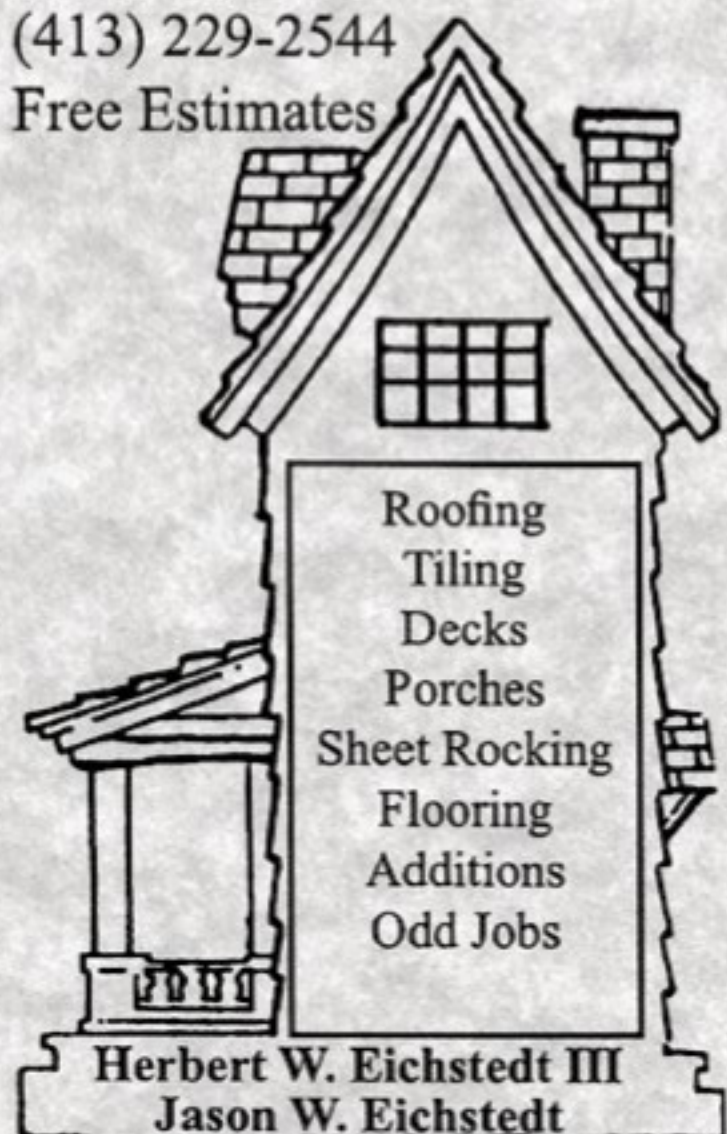
**The library is looking for empty gallon water/milk jugs for a Halloween project.
 If you have any, please drop them off at the library.**

*The New Marlborough Friends of the Library
 and Library Trustees would like to THANK
 everyone who helped make our annual book/bake
 sale a success! We would not be able to do this
 without the help of our volunteers who sort
 the books, bake, and work at our tables.
 A big thanks to the McSpirtt and Redman families
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Town Times

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

Emergency calls: Police, Fire, and Medical: 911

Transfer Station hours:

Wednesday: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

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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

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;
Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke, Kenzie Fields,
David Lowman, Joe Poindexter, Jodi Rothe, Peter Schuyten,
Barry Shapiro, Pam Stebbins, Jon Swan, Marianne Swan
Contributing writers: Ann Getsinger,
Mary Richie Smith, Tara White
Index: Donna Weaver

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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The next issue will be dated October, 2014.

All copy must be submitted no later than September 15.

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

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- ◆ **Dellea:** Dellea.biz offers affordable on-site Windows computer repairs, virus removals, and more to homes and small businesses in southern Berkshire County. Browse <http://www.dellea.biz> or call (413)528-1141.
- ◆ **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. christopher.f.blair@verizon.net.
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- ◆ **Eileen Fitzgibbons:** Experienced massage therapist with advanced training and 6 years' experience at Mepal Spa wishes to continue work in New Marlborough. www.efwellness@gmail.com, 860-309-7775
- ◆ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 229-0050 ◆ **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- ◆ **James Edelman:** General Contractor, Real Estate Sales. Best Results. Construction License #090773. Home Improvement Registration #152035. Real Estate Sales License #9086247. 413-528-0006 or cljvedelman@aol.com
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- ◆ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450
- ◆ **Woodruff Mountain Landscaping:** Excavation and landscape contracting, all forms of stone work and masonry, and outdoor services, including lawn mowing and yard work. 413-229-2919 woodruffmountain@aol.com

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