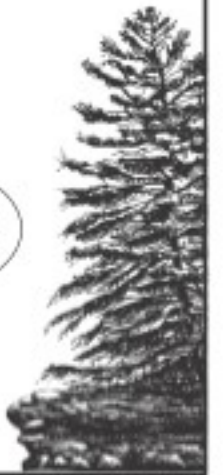




# New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

## EX-PAT WRITERS TO DISCUSS “WHY AMERICA?”

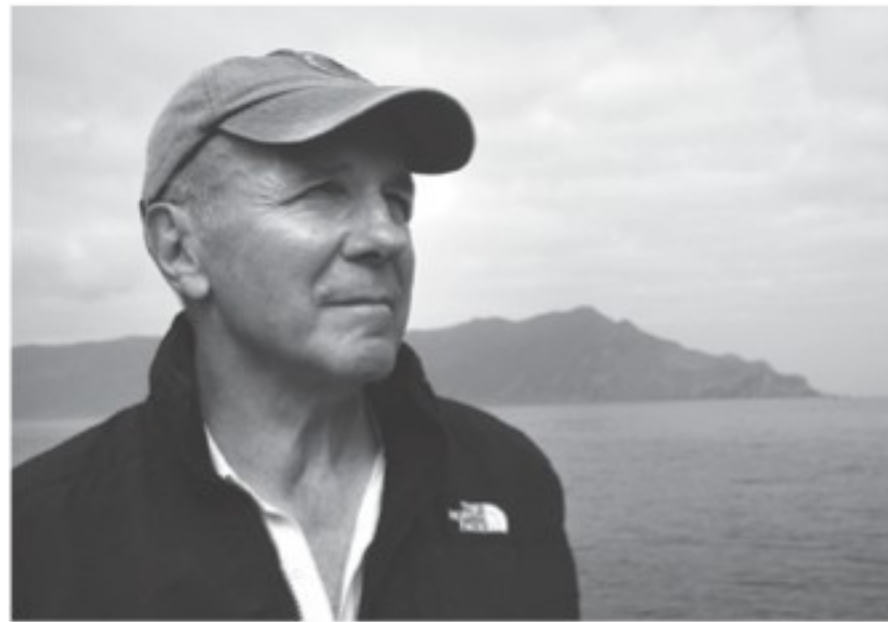
By Jodi Rothe

A remarkable line-up of expatriate writers has been assembled by British-born author, journalist, and explorer Simon Winchester for the annual Music & More authors event October 3 at 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House in New Marlborough.

Mr. Winchester, who makes his home in Sandisfield, will host a discussion among Russian-born Masha Gessen, journalist and author of *Words Will Break Cement* about the Russian dissident group, Pussy Riot; journalist Peter Godwin from Zimbabwe, author of *When a Crocodile Eats the Sun*; and Madhur Jaffrey, Indian author of numerous cookbooks and a celebrated actress in films such as *Shakespeare Wallah*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *Heat and Dust*.

These talented creators have all chosen to make their home in the United States — and the theme of the discussion is “Why America?” Just what is it about this country that led them to make America their home base?

For Mr. Winchester, a fascination with America began with a teenage love affair. In Britain, prior to attending Oxford University, he met a young Canadian girl and



“Welcome to America. It’s illegal to hitchhike”. This didn’t seem to deter anyone from giving him a lift. Winchester says he started on his adventure with \$200 and ended up with \$187. “People were so nice, everywhere I went, they were so kind and fed me and took me into their homes.”

One of his favorite hitchhiking stories happened when he was picked up outside Santa Barbara, California, by a member of a film crew who was working on director John Frankenheimer’s movie, *Seven Days in May*. He was driven to the film set and had lunch with Kirk Douglas and Burt Lancaster, and they signed his cowboy hat. Another ride in Los Angeles led to having coffee with Johnny Carson. It was a fantastic introduction to American generosity and the potential for adventure.

Mr. Winchester returned to England to attend Oxford where he pursued a degree in geology at St. Catherine’s College. He joined the University Exploration Club and was a member of a six-man sledding expedition to an uncharted section of the East Greenland ice cap in 1965. After college, he worked as a field geologist in Uganda searching for copper deposits, but while sitting in his jungle camp, he read a book that set him on a new course. The book was *Coronation Everest* by Jan Morris, a reporter for *The London Times* about the conquest of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay two days before the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The book had such a profound effect on him that he decided at that moment to change careers and become a journalist. After a few stints as a junior reporter in the British hinterlands, he joined the British daily, *The Guardian*, in 1969. They sent him to Ireland where he covered the Irish Republican Army and the British internment without trial of IRA suspects. He was

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saved up money by working in a mortuary (true love!) for passage to Canada on the *Empress of Britain*. After a lovely stay in Montreal with his girlfriend and her family, he felt a call to adventure, hitchhiked across Canada, and headed south to the United States.

As he entered Washington State, he recalls with a smile, “The first sign I saw was

continued on page 2

named British Journalist of the Year in 1971 and later wrote a book about his experience called *Holy Terror*.

Next, *The Guardian* sent him to Washington, D.C., to cover politics. The Watergate break-in happened shortly after his arrival, and he found himself with a ringside seat at the Watergate hearings and President Nixon's ultimate demise. It was a very different time for reporters, and Mr. Winchester recalls sharing notes with Tom Brokaw and Dan Rather, something that he says could never happen in today's "mob scene" of competitive bloggers and cable news journalists.

After Washington he was posted to New Delhi as *The Guardian's* India Correspondent. Ever the explorer, he drove the family Volvo from Britain to India through Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, again, something that could never happen today. While in that part of the world, he covered events during the emergency rule of Indira Gandhi, including the Soviet-backed coup d'etat in Afghanistan, and "several other small wars".

After a brief stint as American bureau chief for *The Daily Mail*, Mr. Winchester became Chief Foreign Feature Writer for *The London Sunday Times*. He happened to be in the Falkland Islands when they were invaded by Argentine forces; he was captured along with two other journalists who worked for a rival newspaper, *The Observer*, and held for three months in a prison in Tierra del Fuego.

After his release and return to England, he became a freelance correspondent in 1982 and travelled to China by way of Moscow, Irkutsk (Eastern Siberia), and Ulan Bator, Mongolia, where he stunned the portly British ambassador by showing up at the door with a Christmas pudding from Fortnum and Mason in London.

He remained in southern China, based in Hong Kong, covering territory stretching from Siberia to Tasmania, Burma to Hawaii for the next twelve years, until the hand-over of the British colony to the Chinese in June 1997.

He then decided to live in New York, where his good fortune as an author began with the publication in 1998 of *The Professor and the Madman – A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary*. It became a huge success and sold millions of copies. His other non-fiction books are too numerous to mention, but include *The Man Who Loved China*, *The Men Who United the States*, *The Atlantic*, and a soon-to-be-released book called *The Pacific*, about events in and around the Pacific Ocean, including the beginnings of the surfing craze in Malibu and the movie *Gidget!*

In 2006, Mr. Winchester was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire "for services to journalism and literature."

He is extremely proud he became an American citizen during the July 4 holiday in 2011, aboard the U.S. Constitution in Boston Harbor.

He is married to former National Public Radio

producer and potter Setsuko Sato. He also finds time for hobbies: bee-keeping, letterpress printing, astronomy, stamp collecting, model railways, cider making – and when interviewed for this story, he was taking a course in timber-framing, where he learned the correct way to chop down a tree. He says his timber services are available!

And that's just the moderator! Volumes could also be written about the other panelists on the program.

Masha Gessen has been described as "Russia's leading LGBT rights activist" and is a prolific contributor to *The New York Times*, *The New Republic*, *New Statesman*, and *Vanity Fair*, to name a few. She wrote *The Man without a Face* about Vladimir Putin, and is at work on a book about the Boston bombers called *The Brothers – The Road to an American Tragedy*. She has found liberation for herself and her work in this country.

Peter Godwin is an author, war correspondent, screenwriter, documentary filmmaker and human rights lawyer – and is the current president of PEN. He's best known for his writing concerning the breakdown of law and order in his native Zimbabwe. He described his upbringing to Winchester as being the "only white boy." He is the author of *Fear* about Robert Mugabe's reign of terror in Zimbabwe, other books, and many articles.

Madhur Jaffrey has contributed widely to culture through her writings about Indian cuisine and her theatrical talents and was named a Commander of the British Empire for her work – an award established by King George V in 1917. She has more than twenty cookbooks listed on Amazon.com, including *A Taste of India*, *Curry Nation*, and *Madhur Jaffrey's Ultimate Curry Bible*, to name a few. She was born in India, educated at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, and makes her home in the United States.

On Saturday, October 3, come ready to hear a fascinating discussion about why this country still holds such an attraction for the creative mind – and why the Berkshires in particular has drawn these talented people together for a one-time-only event. □

\*Note: As for Mr. Winchester's first love, they are still in touch and she is now a professor in the Midwest.

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## BLOCKBUSTER

It was, as those car salesmen from Albany like to say, “Huuuge!” More than two hundred men, women, children, and toddlers, and two ten-week-old Bernese Mountain dogs swarmed the grounds outside Cantina 229, the newly opening restaurant in New Marlborough village, to celebrate the finest summer in memory and sample the inspired cooking of South County chefs. The Block Party, as it was called, was dreamed up by Tim Newman, whose aim was to bring the town together and maybe sign up a few potential subscribers to WiredWest (he snagged fourteen).

Working with Cantina owners Emily Rachel and Josh Irwin, Mr. Newman enlisted local food and drink people to contribute their signature creations. With a roster of providers that included Mill River General Store, Cantina 229, The Meat Market, Farm Country Soup, Old Inn on the Green, Southfield Store, Gedney Farm, The Flour Bin Girls, chef Megan Moore from CMC/Center for Change, Rawson Brook Farm, Berkshire Spring Water, winemaker Trois Emme, and brewer Big Elm, visitors to the Block Party were treated to the most dazzling picnic in memory.

As they departed, many had a message for Mr. Newman:

“Do it again next year.”

*Joe Poindexter*



Photos by Larry Burke and Tim Newman



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## Town Business Is Your Business



### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**July 20:** With all three selectmen present, the Board approved a National Grid application to install a pole on Rhoades and Bailey Road to provide power to a new resident. Then, after approving the minutes for two executive sessions, the Board received the latest draft of the Town's personnel policy from Owen Hoberman and John Pshenishny, members of the ad hoc Personnel Policy Committee – and spent the following hour and a half fine-tuning it.

Among the concerns of the Board: Regarding benefits, vacation time, and sick pay, which employee is entitled to what? When do such benefits become effective? Can sick days be banked? Can they be transferred to a colleague who has exhausted his or her annual allotment of sick days? What is the difference between a part-time, an occasional, and a seasonal employee? Owen Hoberman agreed that his committee would revise the personnel policy and submit a new draft that incorporated changes recommended by the Board. Tara White said she would confer with Treasurer Peter Gay to resolve bookkeeping issues.

Nat Yohalem reported that the Broadband Committee, having determined that Massachusetts Broadband Institute would be its choice to install fiber-optic cable, is now talking to potential operators. It had already conferred with two, Fiber Connect and Crocker Communications, and may also talk to Axia. Additionally, the committee is collecting questions to be submitted to WiredWest. Chairman Michele Shalaby, noting that she had received a business plan from WiredWest, said that the Board needed a business plan from the chosen operator before it could approach the Town's voters on a bond to pay for the construction of a fiber-optic network. Mr. Yohalem said he hoped the ad hoc committee would be able to make a recommendation by September.

Ms. Shalaby noted that the preparation of Board meeting minutes, which entails review of a recording of the meeting, placed an inordinate burden on Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck. The Board recommended that Ms. Fleck prepare the minutes from her written notes and rely on the recording only when necessary for clarification.

The Board permitted alcohol to be served by Cantina 229 on the days it is open this summer for its so-called Taco Tuesdays. Police Chief Graham Frank, present at the meeting, requested that John Mullen be hired for twenty-four hours a week, thus changing his status from part-time to full-time and making him eligible for benefits. New Marlborough Historical Society President Joe Poindexter, also present at the meeting, asked for authorization to install a millstone, rescued from the Keyes Gristmill and donated to the Society by John Sisson, outside the Town Hall. The Board gave its assent, conditioned on its approval of an installation plan.

Ms. Shalaby reiterated her intention to have the Board commit to a set of goals to be met in the current fiscal year. High on her list: the development of a five-year capital plan for roads, buildings, and equipment. Town Administrator Mari Enoch said she had discussed with Pelletco of Orono, Maine, the installation of a wood pellet burner to heat Town Hall. The Board said it would entertain a proposal.

After a request for job descriptions from the tree warden, the animal control officer, and the solid waste administrator, the meeting was adjourned.

**August 3:** Following up on a request by Police Chief Graham Frank at its previous meeting, the Board authorized the hiring of John Mullen as a police officer on a full-time (twenty hours a week or more) basis.

With Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring and Tree

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Warden Bill Ruane (who also works for the Highway Department) both present, the Board grappled with the job definition of the tree warden. This raised a seemingly Jesuitical question: If Mr. Ruane clears a tree from a public road, is he a highway employee or a tree warden? After circling the question for a few minutes (Mr. Loring: "Over the last two years, I never saw the tree warden"; Mr. Yohalem: "No one should be out with a chain saw alone in the middle of the night"), the Board decided that the tree warden's job is administrative. He or she takes calls; the Highway Department takes care of the tree. Ms. Shalaby asked that the job description be put in writing.

The Board accepted a bid from Easthampton Savings Bank to lend the Town \$550,000 for the new fire truck for ten years at 4 percent (the only other bid was for 4-1/2 percent). Under the terms of the agreement, the Town may not prepay the note. The first payment will be due August 12, 2016. The Board then approved a liquor license for the Fire Department Pig Roast, and it received assurance that the office of the tax assessor would be covered during the two weeks in August Assessor Marsha Pshenishny plans to be away.

In a campaign to persuade the Commonwealth to take on the cost of resurfacing Route 57, Mari Enoch has learned that 57 is already deemed "a secondary state road." However, a representative of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation told Ms. Enoch that articles voted by New Marlborough and Sandisfield "will not move the state to take responsibility." What is needed is pressure from all six towns through which 57 runs (two are not in Berkshire County). "We're maintaining the road," said Mr. Yohalem. "In return we want the state to resurface it."

Ms. Enoch reported that two employees have asked to transfer a total of ten sick days to a colleague whose allotment of sick days has been exhausted. Ms. Fleck reported that a resident on a non-conforming but grandfathered plot of land has applied to the Board for permission to purchase a small sliver of land from an adjoining property owner. Mr. Yohalem, wondering if such a purchase might trigger a loss of its grandfather status, suggested that Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard be consulted.

A report from Ms. Enoch that the Highway Department had hired two new employees sparked a debate over whether all such hires should be cleared through the Board of Selectmen. "Do we want to get involved with the identity of the hire or just [authorize] the position?" asked Ms. Shalaby. "The Board of Selectmen needs to know who and how many hours," replied Ms. White. "It has always gone through the Board, and we need to keep it that way." The Board asked that Mr. Loring observe the current hiring policy.

Prudence Spaulding, present at the meeting, said that there are applicants to the senior tax-write-off program

who are prepared to help with the scanning of Town documents. Ms. Shalaby raised the question of prioritizing the work. "If someone throws a Molotov cocktail in here, we need to know what needs to be backed up," she said. Tara White offered to be "the point person. Prue and I will talk," she said.

In yet another update on deliberations on a broadband network, Nat Yohalem said that the Broadband Committee would be meeting with representatives of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute on August 19.

Mr. Yohalem reported that while he was soliciting a letter of support from first selectman Doug Humes of North Canaan for repair of the Clayton Mill River Road (it carries significant traffic between the two towns), he was serendipitously asked if New Marlborough needed a paver. We do, Mr. Yohalem told the Canaan selectman. They went on to discuss a trade of grading services for the paver.

Finally, Ms. Shalaby commended Mrs. Spaulding for a state bill she has introduced that would tie compensation for senior tax-work-off projects to inflation, instead of capping it at \$1,000, as at present. The bill has received the support of Representative Smitty Pignatelli.

*Joe Poindexter*

**August 17:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with all three selectmen present. The first order of business was the awarding of contracts for winter road materials, including crushed stone, sand and gravel. The Board voted to award the majority of the contracts to Joe Wilkinson Excavating of Sheffield, with the rest going to Century Aggregates of Ashley Falls. However, on the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Loring, the Board deferred awarding the winter washed sand contract pending clarification from the vendors that they have enough sand to last through the winter. The Wilkinson firm ran short of the contracted amount last winter resulting in cost overruns when the Town had to buy sand from other suppliers. The contracts also have to be approved by the Sheffield selectmen as part of a joint purchasing effort between the two towns.

The Board voted to award the contract for the inch-and-a-half top coating of County Road to Tri-Town Paving of Lee based on its low bid of \$131,175. Technically this was a re-bid of the job following the Board's rejection in July of a single bid of \$142,155 by DelSignore Paving as being too high. This time around there were five bidders.

The Board agreed to hold a working meeting Wednesday, September 2, at 9:30 a.m. to develop goals for the current fiscal year, which started July 1. This would be followed by a joint meeting, date still to be set, with the Finance Committee to share those goals, and to adopt some new finance policies, discuss the broadband effort, and present a five-year road plan to

the committee, according Board Chair Michele Shalaby.

At the same time, there was discussion about when to hold a Special Town Meeting to approve the \$3-million-plus WiredWest bond or to present it to the voters at the Annual Town Meeting in May. The consensus seemed to be the issue is big enough to warrant its own meeting and that it should be held as early as possible, no later than November. Ms. Shalaby said she just wouldn't be comfortable holding it during the winter months because of weather, "and by March we're getting close to the annual meeting." Also, as Selectman Yohalem pointed out, it would be useful to let the second homeowners voice their opinions at the meeting, even though they can't vote, and that they're more likely to be around in the fall than in the winter. The Board agreed it would like to distribute a fact sheet to the voters in advance of the meeting outlining the cost of the build-out, its impact on taxes, and the cost to subscribe to the broadband offerings. This is information the Board doesn't currently have but expects to get from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, when they meet on Wednesday, August 19, or at least get "a timeline from MBI on when they will have the numbers we need," said Mr. Yohalem.

Town Administrator Mari Enoch reported that Colonial Power is proposing a three-year extension of its existing contract with the member towns making up the Community Choice Power Supply consortium. Comprising ten Berkshire towns, including New Marlborough, the consortium was formed a year ago to secure reduced electrical rates through a bulk purchasing agreement negotiated by Colonial with Hampshire Power, replacing National Grid as the consortium's electricity supplier (for more on how this works see Watt's What on page 1 of the November 2014 issue of the NM5VN). The rate for the first year of the contract extension, which runs from November 2015 until December 2016, would be 10.8 cents per kilowatt-hour. This compares with last year's negotiated rate of 12.8 cents.

According to Ms. Enoch, it was the towns themselves that were pushing for the extended contract: "The

feedback they [Colonial] got," from the towns "was that locking in every six-to-twelve months was kind of cumbersome. So they asked for a longer period," she explained. It also gives Colonial the leeway during the final two years of the contract to jump in and purchase power when the futures market is favorable rather than at the end of each twelve-month period. As in the past, individual consumers will be permitted to opt out at any time by giving five days' notice to either Colonial or Hampshire Power. However, it was not clear to the Board whether the opt-out provision applied to Town buildings receiving electricity from Hampshire. So, to be safe, the Board passed a motion accepting the proposal with the proviso that the Town can opt out within a reasonable period of time that is less than thirty days, with no fees or extra charges.

In discussing its upcoming meeting schedule, the Board noted there will not be a meeting on Monday, September 7, because of Labor Day, and that because the following Monday, September 14, is the last full day of Rosh Hashanah, the Board will meet on Tuesday instead.

And finally, Ms. Enoch said she'd received a call from the parents of a Southern Berkshire Regional School District student who lives in New Marlborough, asking the Town to pay the \$7,992 in tuition required to attend the vocational agricultural program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Connecticut. Under state law the Town is obligated to pay schooling costs elsewhere if the local school district doesn't offer vocational training, even if it's an out-of-state school. However, the Board noted that in this case it won't be responsible for the tuition costs since the request was not submitted by the April 1 deadline. This is the second New Marlborough student in the past year to ask the Town to pay tuition costs to attend the agricultural program at Housatonic Valley High School. □

Peter Schuyten

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## THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

A monthly column from the chairman of the Board of Selectmen on concerns and issues the Board would like to share with the town.

School is back in session. For students, this school year is business-as-usual but there is a significant change to note in Monterey: The building will be quiet while programs there are suspended for this school year. There are various reasons for this decision, and we do believe that it is, in part, due to the New Marlborough, Alford, and Sheffield Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees asking that Monterey School program funds be redirected. We take neither pleasure nor pride in this outcome. We have viewed our request as a necessary means of protecting the things we value most as an entire school district. It is unfortunate that a few have to make this current sacrifice to which so many emotions and reasonable concerns are attached.

Unless our district is an exception to the population trends of the entire Northeast, all rural areas of the United States, and the whole of Berkshire County, our student population is going to shrink significantly over the next ten years. State leadership has repeatedly warned that our current school model is unsustainable and that we need to rethink this model. Change is inevitable. Many see risk in change and fear the sacrifices that may be demanded.

Whatever your view, now is the time to consider what is most important and reasonable. School committees and superintendents are getting serious about collaboration between districts. Meetings are taking place and specific ideas are being put forward, including consolidations. Our own Southern Berkshire Regional School District is meeting with Farmington River District, and Berkshire Hills is meeting with Lee. Within our own district, the School Committee will be considering what to do with the Monterey school building and program in future years.

A few years ago, we had a sweeping proposal to close the Monterey, New Marlborough, and Egremont

schools. This was met with both support and vociferous opposition. Since then the clamor has subsided, but not the fears. At our Annual Town Meeting the opposition to closing or defunding Monterey had more to do with fearing the closing of New Marlborough Central than about belief in the necessity of the Monterey School. This is understandable but if we fight any and all change and do no planning, the fate of New Marlborough Central School seems sealed.

As a parent of school children, I have my own wishes for our schools. I hope to see school funds increased at a reasonably steady rate and used for programs that give the greatest benefit to the greatest number of children while protecting the youngest children from long distance travel on buses. I'd like to see the school leadership meet the future needs of our students, unburdened by history or politics.

Whether or not you have children in our public schools, these institutions are the foundation of our community. Follow the developments in the local news and talk to leadership (including the Board of Selectmen) about what is most important to you.

*Michele Shalaby, Chairman, Board of Selectmen*

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# Attorney General's Notice

Form 299 Date: July 31, 2015

Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32, as amended by Chapter 299 of the Acts of 2000

Town of New Marlborough -- Case No. 7544 Annual Town Meeting of May 4, 2015 Article # 33

## Attorney General's Limited Authority to Waive Procedural Defects in the Notice of the Planning Board Hearing

Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32, as amended by Chapter 299 of the Acts of 2000, if the Attorney General finds there to be any defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment of any zoning by-law relating to the form or content of the notice of the Planning Board hearing prescribed by G.L. c. 40A, § 5, or to the manner or dates on which said notice is mailed, posted or published as required by that section, then instead of disapproving the by-law or amendment by reason of any such defect, the Attorney General may elect to proceed under the defect waiver provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32. Under those provisions, the Attorney General is conditionally authorized to waive any such defect.

## Defect Determined in Notice of Planning Board Hearing

The Attorney General has determined that one or more of the notice requirements for the planning board hearing relating to the above Article failed to comply with the notice requirements for such hearing required by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. Section 5 provides in part (with emphasis added):

No zoning...by-law or amendment thereto shall be adopted until after the planning board in a...town has...held a public hearing thereon...at which interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard....Notice of the time and place of such hearing, of the subject matter, sufficient for identification, and of the place where texts and maps thereof may be inspected shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the...town once in each of two successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing, and by posting such notice in a conspicuous place in the...town hall for a period of not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing. Notice of said hearing shall also be sent by mail, postage prepaid to the department of housing and community development, the regional planning agency, if any, and to the planning board of each abutting city and town.

Based on the materials submitted to this Office, we have identified the following defects: (1) the planning board hearing notice was not sent to the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Regional Planning Agency; and (2) the planning board hearing notice that was posted and published did not contain a statement as to where the text and map of the by-law may be inspected, all as required by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. Apart from these defects, the Town appears to have complied with the requirements of the statute.

## Attorney General's Election to Proceed Under the Waiver Provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32

The Attorney General has elected to proceed under the limited defect waiver authority conferred by G.L. c. 40, § 32, as amended by Chapter 299 of the Acts of 2000.

## Suspension of Review of Zoning By-Law Amendments

The 90-day period prescribed by law for the Attorney General's review of local by-laws is therefore suspended in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32, as amended by Chapter 299 of the Acts of 2000.

## Posting and Publication of This Notice

The Town Clerk shall post a true copy of this Notice in a conspicuous place in the New Marlborough Town Hall for a period of not less than 14 days and shall publish a copy once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of New Marlborough.

## Filing of Claim That Defect in Notice Was Misleading or Otherwise Prejudicial

Within 21 days of the date on which this Notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of New Marlborough, any resident of the Town of New Marlborough, or the owner of any real property in the Town of New Marlborough, or any other party entitled to notice of the planning board hearing may file with the Town Clerk a written statement that the notice defect was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. The statement must include the reasons supporting the claim that the defect in the Planning Board Notice was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. This statement must be actually on file with the Town Clerk not later than 21 days from the date on which this Notice is published in the newspaper.

## Town Clerk's Certification of Compliance with This Notice

After the expiration of the 21-day period, the Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General a true copy of this Notice with a certification of compliance with the publishing and posting requirements of the preceding paragraph, and a certification that either (a) no claim was filed within the 21 day period, or (b) one or more claims were filed within the 21-day period. The Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General true copies of any such claim(s).

## Resumption of Attorney General's Review

Upon receipt of one original copy of this Notice with the Clerk's certification, the 90 day period provided for the Attorney General's review under G.L. c. 40, § 32, shall resume. If no claim is made, the Attorney General has the discretion to waive any such defect; if any claim is made, however, the Attorney General may not waive any such defect.

Note: By not filing a claim under this provision, a person shall not be deprived of the right to assert a claim of invalidity arising out of any possible defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment, as provided in G.L. c. 40, § 32, and in G.L. c. 40A, § 5.

Date: July 31, 2015

*The Attorney General's Notice was required to be published by our Planning Board to correct two minor errors in the notification process for public hearings.*



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**July 25:** Commission members Ned Wilson, John Schreiber, and Freddie Friedman were present when the meeting was called to order. They re-opened the public hearing for a Notice of Intent for Katherine Slingluff and Warren Stuckey of Hadsell Street, continued from last month. Robert Hoogs of Foresight Land Services referred to the recent determination from the Division of Fish and Wildlife that the proposed work, including an addition to the existing residence and related site work, would not adversely affect the resource area habitat of a state-listed rare species. The Commission agreed and approved the application.

Plumber Mark Bachetti next presented a Request for Determination on behalf of John Sisson of Mill River Great Barrington Road. Mr. Bachetti explained that the pipe from the well to the house needed to be replaced. The Commission had made a site visit to the property just prior to the meeting and agreed that although the work was within one hundred feet of the Konkapot River the area was previously degraded and would not

further alter the resource area. The permit was given a negative determination meaning the work was approved as proposed.

Shannon Boomsma from White Engineering addressed the Commission for Roman and Sherri Kropp of Route 57. Ms. Boomsma requested to amend the order of conditions for the NOI issued in July 2005. She explained that the well drilling rig cannot cross the existing bridge over the Umpachene River and reach the house site. Ms. Boomsma requested that a temporary bridge be installed for the rig crossing. The Commission reviewed the bridge location and approved the amendment with a request for mitigation of a five- to ten-foot buffer of native river bank vegetation. James Kelly, a consulting forester representing the abutter, Mark Walker, was on hand to be sure the proposed work did not encroach on the abutting parcel.

Finally, the minutes from last month's meeting were read and approved with minor edits, and the next meeting was scheduled for Saturday, August 29 at 9:00 a.m. □

Martha Bryan

## PLANNING BOARD UPDATE

The Planning Board meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month to discuss and develop recommendations on ways to protect the rural atmosphere of the Town of New Marlborough.

Members of the Board include Patricia Hardyman, Holly Morse, Jamie Mullen, and Charlie Parton. Mark Carson was recently elected to replace Judy Hattendorf. Holly Morse will serve as Chair of the Board for the coming year.

Recent activities of the Board include amending the Town's Protective By-laws to clarify definitions and to broaden the rules to allow for accessory apartments within single-family dwellings. The amendments passed as Article 33 at the May 4 Annual Town Meeting.

Outreach continues to gather feedback on what members of the community did not like in the proposed protective by-law revision of 2013. Three meetings have been held with community groups and several more will be scheduled. Planning Board suggestion boxes have been installed at the library and Town Hall to help facilitate communication between the Planning Board and the community.

The Board was notified at a recent meeting that New Marlborough had received a grant of funds under the District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program which provides assistance of a land use lawyer for planning activity through December 31, 2015. □

Pamela Stebbins

### Reiner White & Sons, Inc.

#### General Contractor

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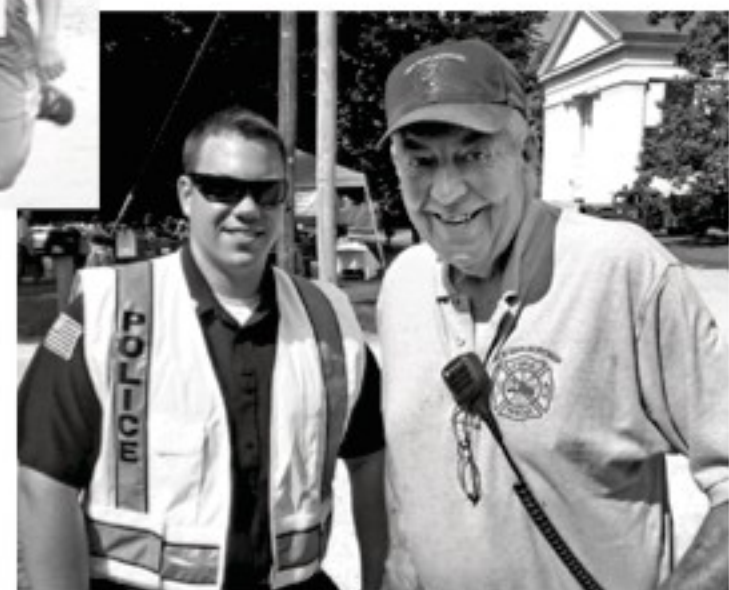
Ron Brecher 413-229-0470

35 Hartsville Mill River Road  
Mill River, MA 01244  
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# Elihu Burritt Day 2015





Photos on these pages were contributed by Larry Burke, Barry Shapiro, John Schreiber, and Ed Harvey



# Firehouse Pig Roast



## UPCOMING: Events Calendar for September and October

**September 5: Karen Akers Sings!** A Music & More benefit performance from the French and English songbook; 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House; tickets \$50, \$40 to member of the Village Association

**September 12: Headstone restoration,** New Marlborough Village Cemetery (just off Branch Road), 10:00 a.m. to noon, followed by a picnic lunch for all who pitch in; sponsored by the New Marlborough Historical Society

**September 12: Les Amies,** with flutist Carol Wincenc, flute, Nancy Allen, harp, and Cynthia Phelps, viola, performing works of Ibert, Bax, J. S. Bach, Ravel, Devienne, Fauré, and Debussy; 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House; tickets \$25, \$20 to member of the Village Association

**September 19: Aston Magna** plays Bach (J.S. and C.P.E.) 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association

**September 26: Lydian String Quartet,** with music by Mendelssohn, Glass, and Brahms; 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association

**October 3: Award-Winning Authors,** Simon Winchester asks ex-patriates Madhur Jaffrey (from India), Peter Godwin (from Zimbabwe), and Masha Gessen (from Russia) "Why America?" 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, \$15, \$10 to members of the Village Association; a book-signing and reception with the authors follows the program

## UNITING NATIONS IN SOUTHFIELD

It was in its way an only-in-America moment: string players from Thailand, Shanghai, Spain, and the United States, and music from Germany, France, and Hungary, all gathered in a New England village church. The geographical diversity notwithstanding, there was total harmony from the members of the Zorá String Quartet, whose performance of works by Debussy, Haydn, and Bartok resounded brilliantly in the intimate interior of the Southfield Church.

The final concert of the 2015 season of Music at the Southfield Church took place July 25. As envisioned by Robert Olsen, the Southfield resident who is principally responsible for the rebirth of the church, the series began last year with a piano recital by Gabi Makuc and continued in June and July with concerts by pianist Donna Baldwin and violinist Hannah Cohen. The Zorá (the name means sunrise in Bulgarian), formed



at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, was fortuitously near at hand. Its members were all fellows at the Norfolk (Connecticut) Chamber Music Festival this summer.

The series, which features not only fine musicians but also the superb acoustics of the Southfield Church, will continue in 2016.



**Paradise  
Energy Solutions**

**Ned Wilson**  
Project Manager

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## A MAN AND HIS MUSIC

By David Lowman

If you don't know George Fleck, you're missing the beat – yeah, the beat! Each Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. George hosts two hours of great music on WBCR, 97.7 FM from Great Barrington. (The last three letters of the call letters stand for Berkshire Community Radio.) And if, like this writer, you can't get WBCR on the radio because it only has 100 watts of power, boot up your computer and go to <http://nyc01.egihosting.com:6232/listen.pls> and you'll catch George's program. For those of us of a certain age, the music George plays is out of the Great American Songbook. Sinatra, Bennett, Peggy Lee, The Manhattan Transfer. Jazz and swing, too: Benny Goodman, Bucky Pizzarelli, Ella Fitzgerald, and the Count and the Duke. What a treasure! For readers with a history in New York City, George Fleck will remind you of DJ's such as Jonathan Schwartz and William B. Williams, spinners of terrific records and great yarns.

George and Sharon Fleck (she's one of the friendly faces at Town Hall five days a week, the Board of



Selectmen's Administrative Secretary) have been here in New Marlborough since 2004, first as part-time residents and since 2012 as full-timers; for the past seven years, George has been doing his best to spread the pleasures of the Great American Songbook.

George Fleck was born and raised in the Bronx, New York, and after a tour of duty with the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He then acquired an M.B.A. from New York University and later added a Doctorate in

Education from Fairleigh Dickinson. His post-college work was in communications and public relations for a variety of private corporations and institutions of higher education, finally retiring from his post as chairman of the Department of Speech, Communications, and Theatre Arts, Manhattan Community College, City University of New York in 2002.

Turn on. Tune in. Jeepers Creepers. It's Too Marvelous for Words. □

## SOUTHFIELD CHURCH SEEKING...

**Singers:** This Christmas, the Southfield Church will present its fifth annual Lessons & Carols Christmas Eve Service for the community. We are inviting singers in all voice ranges to participate. Training and experience are not necessary (helpful, but not necessary); however, the willingness to work hard, carry a tune in a bucket, attend each rehearsal, and begin full rehearsals Sunday, November 1 is necessary. Our repertoire is challenging, beautiful, and fun to sing. Rehearsals will take place in the Southfield Church sanctuary from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. each Sunday until Christmas Eve. (Small group rehearsals may begin in October.) We are also seeking an accomplished pianist. If you or anyone you know is interested in singing or playing, please contact Robert Olsen as soon as possible at (413) 229-5903 or [robertolsen276@verizon.net](mailto:robertolsen276@verizon.net).

**Market Vendors:** The Southfield Church is seeking Artisans, crafters, gift makers, and food purveyors for its third annual Holiday Market on Saturday, December 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Ladies Aid Hall. Past markets have proven to be a wonderful time for community gathering. While the organizing committee prefers to present purveyors of hand-crafted

items, if you are a purveyor of "found items" and would like to participate if there is room, please do not hesitate to make your interest known. We are offering whole and half eight-foot and six-foot tables ranging from \$10 to \$30. All table fees directly benefit our Deacon's Missions Fund which supports local charities. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Robert Olsen as soon as possible at (413) 229-5903 or [robertolsen276@verizon.net](mailto:robertolsen276@verizon.net). □

## Barnbrook

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Broker Owner

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## HAROLD LEWIN MEMORIAL CONCERT ESTABLISHED

By Mary Richie Smith and Louise Yohalem

For the last twenty-four years, in the late summer and early autumn, concerts of rare quality and distinction have enthralled the music lovers of New Marlborough and our neighboring towns at the New Marlborough Village Association's historic Meeting House on the Green. We have owed this series, Music & More, to the vision and knowledge of the pianist and music scholar, Harold Lewin.

After a prolonged illness, Harold died last year, but not before arranging the entire 2015 series, the last season he was to plan, but the best and brightest of all. World-class performers are delivering outstanding programs.

As many know, Harold was himself an internationally-recognized musician and scholar. He performed at many of the world's most prestigious halls, including Lincoln Center, The Library of Congress, and Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. For his contributions to Finnish music, he was decorated with the Lion of Finland Medal.

Harold was always present at our concerts and always introduced the performers. His deeply-felt enthusiasm could in itself carry the audience to a higher level. With each of the upcoming events we will think of how much we have lost and of how much we have gained through his gifted devotion.

This year's series is already underway and is dedicated to Harold's memory. To ensure the continuation of this series, his family has established the Harold Lewin Endowment Fund for Music & More through the New Marlborough Village Association. Each year a concert made possible by the Fund will be dedicated in his memory. A committee of noted performers will continue to reach out to musicians of world-class reputation to continue the series as its dedicated audience has come to expect.

The first Harold Lewin Memorial Concert will take place on Saturday, September 19, at 4:30 p.m. in the Meeting House. Featured will be musicians of Aston Magna playing an all-Bach program including Trio Sonata in G Major (J.S. Bach), Sonata for violin and continuo in E Minor (J.S. Bach), "Sanguineus und Melancholicus," Trio Sonata in C Minor (C.P.E. Bach), and Suite in B Minor for flute and strings (J.S. Bach). The concert will be followed by a gala wine-tasting provided by Domaney's of Great Barrington.

People wishing to make donations to the Harold Lewin Endowment Fund can do so through the New Marlborough Village Association, 154 Hartsville New Marlborough Road, New Marlborough, MA 01230, or at our website, [www.newmarlborough.org](http://www.newmarlborough.org). □

**m**  
music  
and  
more

15

For lovers of world-class music  
and lively literary chat.

— Rural Intelligence

Saturdays at 4:30 pm  
August-October

At the historic Meeting House  
Rte 57 New Marlborough, Mass.



### September 5

*Karen Akers, voice; Don Rebic, piano*

An evening of gems from the French and American songbooks, including selections from her album of French Classics, *Under Paris Skies*, and other classics, such as *Shenandoah* and *Surabaya Johnny*.



### September 12 Les Amies

*Carol Wincenc, flute;  
Cynthia Phelps, viola;  
Nancy Allen, Harp*

Les Amies will be playing works of Ibert, Bax, J. S. Bach, Ravel, Debussy, and Fauré.



### September 19 Harold Lewin Memorial Concert: Musicians of Aston Magna

An all-Bach program including Trio Sonata in G Major (J.S. Bach), Sonata for violin and continuo in E Minor (J.S. Bach), "Sanguineus und Melancholicus" (Sonata in E Minor by C.P.E. Bach), and Suite in B minor for Flute and strings (J.S. Bach).



### September 26 Lydian Quartet

*Daniel Stepner and Judith Eissenberg, violin; Mark Berger, viola; Joshua Gordon, cello*  
Classical and contemporary quartets featuring Mendelssohn's Quartet in E Flat, Op. 12; Quartet No. 5 by Philip Glass, and Quartet in C Minor, Op. 51, No. 1 by Johannes Brahms.



### October 3 Award-Winning Authors: Why America?

with host Simon Winchester  
*Madhur Jaffrey (from India),  
Peter Godwin (from Zimbabwe) and  
2015 Carnegie Fellow Masha Gessen  
(from Russia)* discuss the reasons they have chosen to settle and write thousands of miles from their homeland, in the United States.

Receptions with the artists  
Art Gallery shows through Sept. 28th

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION: [www.newmarlborough.org](http://www.newmarlborough.org)

(413) 229-2785

## FROM RIDING TRAILS TO TURNPIKES

### *New Marlborough's Earliest Roads*

By Mike White

Prior to the 1730s, there were early settlements in the Connecticut River Valley. A few years later people migrated up the Housatonic River valley and established the towns of Sheffield and Stockbridge, leaving a vast wilderness in between. The only east-west paths between these settlements were those used by fur traders and travelers on horseback. There were two such paths in this area: One, which came to be called the "Great Road," connected the towns of Westfield and Sheffield and eventually reached from Boston to Albany. The other, the "Great Greenwoods Road," originated in Hartford, crossed the Massachusetts line in Sandisfield, crossed through New Marlborough, and eventually intersected with the Great Road, connecting Hartford to Albany.

While these paths were suitable for horseback riders, they were, in the words of one Englishman, "encumbered with rocks, mire, and the stumps and roots of trees." The settlers in this area needed a more substantial road system to facilitate commerce and allow for more efficient travel between the established settlements. In 1735, the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts granted permission to establish four new townships – Tyringham, New Marlborough, Sandisfield, and Becket, as they are called today – along the route of the Great Road, in part to provide a civilized corridor that would ensure safe passage along the new roads.

The individual towns were laid out into lots – those in New Marlborough generally rectangular (990 by 2,700 feet) and containing approximately sixty acres – the earliest roughly along a portion of the Great Greenwoods Road. Some of the deeds contained a provision for a "4-rod road" in anticipation of the need to cross the land. As a rule, settlers built their dwellings in the most desirable location on their lot, constructing a path or wagon road leading from the last developed site. The result was a series of road segments, radiating from the main roads and extending from one lot to the next or from a residence to, say, a mill site.

If a house burned down or was abandoned, the land it occupied would often change hands, resulting in a rerouting of the surrounding road. Roads, too, could be



*Mike White addresses the Historical Society on August 7*

*photo by Joe Poindexter*

abandoned, but there was an incentive for keeping a road on the town records, since the towns received a per-mile subsidy from the state. This in turn, however, obligated the town to improve the road when a new owner needed access to his property.

Beginning in 1737, improvements in the two main arteries through what was to become southern Berkshire County led to the so-called "Coach Era."

As the system of roads

expanded, carriages, initially used within cities, underwent design changes to make them suitable for intercity travel. The result: larger, multi-passenger coaches with heavier frames and suspensions that enabled them to travel long distances at greater speeds.

By the 1790s, private enterprise had begun to envision an investment opportunity in the roads themselves, with corporations forming to improve the main, intercity arteries. They hoped to earn a return on their investment by collecting tolls from travelers – hence the beginning of the turnpike era in New England. In 1803, for instance, the Fifteenth Massachusetts Turnpike (also called the Hartford and Albany Turnpike) was created along a section of the Great Greenwoods Road. It was nineteen-and-a-half miles long and cost \$840 per mile to improve. Improvements of the Great Road came at a cost of \$1,400 a mile

Indications are that the turnpikes never turned a profit, but good roads had a multiplier effect. One example: the Red Bird line, which passed through New Marlborough and, needing overnight accommodations and farrier services, led to the creation of the Red Bird Inn. (Now a private residence, it still stands at the corner of Route 57 and Adsit Crosby Road.) To this day, roads remain a significant element of the New Marlborough economy. □

*This article is based on a New Marlborough Historical Society program Mr. White presented August 7*

## NEIGHBORS



The Simon Grinspoon Farmer Awards were established this year by philanthropist Harold Grinspoon, in honor of his father, to support local farms with grants of \$2,500. Eighty-eight farms in western Massachusetts applied for grants; thirty-three grants were awarded. One of those went to **Steve Cunningham** of Berkshire Bounty Farm in Southfield. He says that the award “allowed me to expand my vertical growing capabilities and better optimize my limited space. Additionally, the growing cart I purchased with the award gave me a

several-weeks jump on my growing season.”

On August 8, **Robin Tost** of Mill River opened a one-woman show at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Titled *Not Your Grandmother's Quilt*, the exhibit displayed Robin's genius in creating “fabric” from precisely shaped and painstakingly joined pieces of metal. Whatever the quilts lacked in warmth, they made up in dazzle.

On Saturday, August 1, family and friends of **Tom Billard** gathered for a Celebration of Life for Tom, who passed away in July. Guests included Tom's children, **Emma, Hugo, and Liam**, as well as many of Tom's clients, including members of the **Tatlock and Leavitt families**. Tom's co-workers from Butternut, where he had worked for many years, and many of Tom's friends throughout the community, including members of New Marlborough Fire & Rescue, were also in attendance.

Tom was a twenty-five-year member of the Fire Department and known for the dedication, diligence, and thought that he put into serving the New Marlborough community. That Tom put in many hours of training and responding to calls goes without saying, but Tom's service to the Department went above and beyond in many ways. Tom served on the Fire Company's Board of Directors and, for many years, oversaw the preparation of the pigs for the Fire Company's annual Pig Roast, devoting many hours in the process, including the early morning task of lighting the roasters and monitoring their progress throughout the day. Tom was also a regular for the Memorial Day Parade, volunteering each year to carry a flag at the front of the Department's formation.

Tom was there for the library fire, entering as part of a team from the Ormsbee Garage side of the building. We advanced a hose line with the objective of pushing the fire back towards its origin at the front door, but it was a scene from *Apocalypse Now*, with flame all around and above us. Speech was not possible with our air packs, but Tom was the ultimate team player, communicating by hand signals and taps on our shoulders. We knew he had our backs and if need be would rescue us if we fell. He never bragged about the strength he displayed in this or any other fire, as his courage was the quiet kind.

Tom was the epitome of reliability and dedication, and his presence is missed. New Marlborough has lost a great friend.

Members of the New Marlborough Fire Department collaborated to provide this remembrance. □

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



Steve Cunningham

photo by David Lowman



Robin Tost

photo by Larry Burke



Mark Leavitt shares a remembrance of Tom

photo by Martha Bryan

## THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!

Robin Tost; Dawn Massini; and Enid Michelman, Herbert and Jeanine Coyne



## OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

In late July, Erik Callahan's camera was ready when a black bear came out of the woods for a morning stroll of a Southfield backyard on East Hill Road.

On August 8, Don Beauchamp was on a bridge crossing the Konkapot River near his Clayton home when he heard three young female mergansers and their mother swimming downstream toward a young beaver making its way upstream – too dark, unfortunately, for a photo. But he did capture a cedar waxwing, before and after bathing in a nearby pool and a coyote, which paused long enough to show off its handsome profile.

Next month, *Our Wildlife Neighbors* comes under the stewardship of Larry Burke, who will welcome your sightings, your photos, and your commentary at [burke2@me.com](mailto:burke2@me.com).



photo by Erik Callahan



photos by Don Beauchamp



## NEWS FROM THE LAND TRUST



The Goat Project: How well did they do? Based on preliminary observations, the first part of the Land Trust's experiment – using goats to manage invasive plants – was a qualified success.

During their six weeks in Mill River, the four goats – Brooklyn, Buddy, Remington and Sparkles – ate about three-quarters of the leafy vegetation up to six feet high at their one-acre home. Their favorites were multiflora rose, bittersweet, sumac, poison ivy, and an occasional young sapling. Least attractive to the ruminants was barberry. Repeated browsing of leaves puts heavy stress on the invasives' root systems, and eventually kills them. The final assessment of billie's efficiency will have to wait until next spring to see if new growth arises from the roots.

The "goat phase" of the Goat Project is complete. In the second phase, two-legged volunteers are clearing much of the remaining undergrowth. Now the stonework of the Robbins-Crosby mill on the Konkapot River can be seen. A unique feature of the original mill was a horizontal water wheel, rather than a traditional vertical wheel.

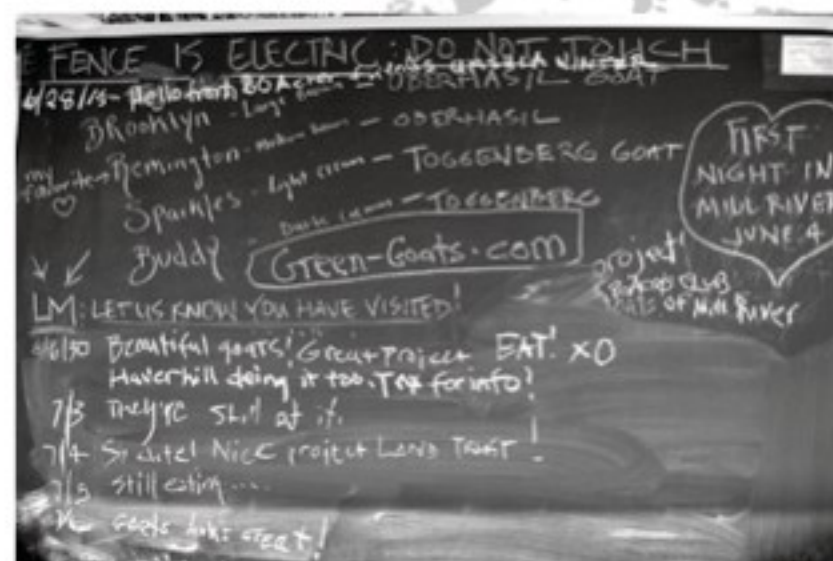
Measured by the involvement of the town's residents and visitors, the Goat Project was an overwhelming success. Dozens of observations, questions and opinions were left on the site's chalkboard.

The goats sparked a creative outpouring as well. Artist Robin Tost created a goat sculpture from a variety of metal implements. Roy Blount's witty ode to the goats was a fitting paean to their hard work. (see the August 2015 issue of the NM5VN) Community professionals also contributed to the effort, as Reiner White welcomed the goat's arrival by building a kiosk for the project and Susan Sellev of Rawson Brook Farm volunteered her time and knowledge of goats at a community workshop.

As the mill site is cleared of invasives, the Land Trust wants to hear from the entire community about the best uses of this magnificent and historic public site.

Please send your vision and any suggestions for the site to Martha Bryan at [nmlandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:nmlandtrust@gmail.com).

Ian Devine and Martha Bryan



Notes on blackboard from goat project visitors

photo by Martha Bryan

**THE LOG****POLICE DEPARTMENT (SELECTED ENTRIES)**

- |         |            |  |         |            |  |
|---------|------------|--|---------|------------|--|
| July 1  | 3:14 p.m.  | Southfield Store employee reports a raccoon is in the dumpster   | July 20 | 6:38 p.m.  | Lunch pail, keys, shirt, and paychecks found on Mill River Southfield Road; they are returned to delivery truck driver   |
| July 3  | 3:30 p.m.  | Transport attempting to deliver a dock to Lake Windemere calls in attempt to deny access to property; issue resolved without police intervention   | July 21 | noon       | Mill River Great Barrington Road resident complains of neighbor's fireworks  |
|         | 8:05 p.m.  | Lake Buel resident reports loud explosion across the lake  | July 23 | 11:00 a.m. | Passing motorist reports an injury to a bicyclist, who has flipped over the handlebars while steering onto the side of Mill River Great Barrington Road  |
|         | 10:41 p.m. | Elderly driver, traveling at 15 m.p.h., is issued warning for crossing lanes   | July 24 | 7:13 p.m.  | Hayes Hill Road resident reports that goats, which had been clearing neighboring New Marlborough Land Trust property of invasive plants, are in his backyard; New York State owner takes the goats home  |
| July 4  | 1:16 p.m.  | Southfield resident reports receiving harassing phone calls after she asked that trash left on her property by a neighbor be removed   |         | 9:31 p.m.  | Lake Buel resident reports receiving harassing calls from his neighbor, claiming he is driving onto her property   |
| July 5  | 6:40 p.m.  | Mill River Great Barrington Road resident reports loud bangs in the area   |         | 10:51 p.m. | Brewer Branch Road resident reports nearby fireworks   |
| July 6  | 7:46 p.m.  | Car is towed when officer determines that license plates and vehicle do not match  | July 27 | 9:00 a.m.  | Lake Buel resident reports that renters on neighboring property have been parking on her property  |
| July 7  | 1:11 p.m.  | East Hill Road resident reports sighting an ill or injured fox   |         | 11:00 a.m. | Southfield resident reports issues with neighbor over shared driveway  |
| July 8  | 3:03 p.m.  | Mill River resident, saying he was advised by U.S. authorities to inform local authorities, reports his computer records were compromised by the recent international hacking of federal website | July 28 | 8:48 a.m.  | Tree down on Sisson Hill Road  |
|         | 11:02 p.m. | Mill River Great Barrington Road resident reports a herd of some fifteen cows headed toward Lake Buel; they are eventually found in a field and returned to their home pasture                   |         | 9:46 a.m.  | Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road resident reports neighbor is burning building materials   |
| July 10 | 3:39 p.m.  | Passing motorist reports a car in a ditch on South Sandisfield Road  | July 31 | 12:10 p.m. | Lake Buel resident issues further complaint about renters, with multiple vehicles, parking on her property   |
| July 11 | 11:30 a.m. | Caller reports a queen-size mattress and box springs dumped at the side of Sisson Hill Road  |         | 5:11 p.m.  | Clayton Mill River Road resident reports ears of corn being thrown at passing motorists from large Elm Knoll Farm cornfield; owner says, "This happens every year"; perpetrators, said to be "possibly hiding in cornfield," cannot be located |
|         | 3:09 p.m.  | Caller reports the loss of a wallet at Umpachene Falls   |         |            |  |
| July 12 | 7:39 p.m.  | An Underwood Road resident reports a possibly rabid raccoon on her property  |         |            |  |
|         | 11:51 p.m. | An Underwood Road resident reports someone banging on his front and basement doors   |         |            |  |
| July 15 | 7:25 p.m.  | Officer changes a flat tire for a motorist on South Sandisfield Road   |         |            |  |
| July 16 | 11:14 p.m. | Smoking car with fuel leak is towed from Clayton Mill River Road   |         |            |  |
| July 17 | 10:49 p.m. | Gunshots reported by residents of Underwood Road and Lakeside Drive  |         |            |  |
| July 19 | 7:57 p.m.  | Woman reports a motor vehicle abandoned at her grandmother's Mill River Great Barrington Road residence  |         |            |  |

**\$\$\$ BUYING GOLD \$\$\$****BULK SILVER (FLATWARE, ETC.)****DIAMOND BROKERS****APPRAISERS****Sachs Reisman, Inc.****jewelry manufacturing****25 Maple Avenue****Sheffield, MA 413-229-0050**

## THE 'SQUIRRELS' GO NUTS

Firefighters are a funny bunch, and they do some pretty crazy stuff. Sometimes they even invite other firefighters to do it with them. There is a small group of New Marlborough's crew (The Squirrels) that has on and off over the years participated in events called musters. A muster can be many things; ours happened to be a contest of firefighting skills. On August 2, teams from New Marlborough, Derby, Connecticut, and Florida, Massachusetts, congregated at the New Marlborough Central School grounds where we dragged hoses, connected them, and knocked targets over with water streams; at the end we even put out a fire.

One of these events proved to be a little more difficult than suspected, but also proved how skilled and able our firefighters truly are. The event was called Midnight Alarm at Fenway. Using the little league baseball diamond we modified the long-standing Midnight Alarm event, which requires the team to dress in the firefighter protective equipment as quickly as possible. Normally, the event ends with crossing a finish line. Oh, but we had to make it interesting: once dressed



Travis Weigle holds on for dear life during the tug of war against the Derby team.



The Derby, Connecticut Team, about to put out the oil fire



Former Great Barrington ladder truck, wheeled by Travis Sering of Stockbridge, took the best-appearing award in the short parade held before the muster. photos by Brian Dillon

in the gear, the team had to run to home plate, then *crawl*, as if they were searching for a victim, around the bases, about 200 feet. Every member of each team completed this task, some of them twice. (A few teams were short of members, so, as we do, we helped each other out.) In the end, the designer of the event (this author) was cussed and cursed, but there was also a huge feeling of accomplishment among the teams. So who won? Florida came in first, completing this event in 2 minutes and 26 seconds, followed by New Marlborough with a time of 3 minutes and 11 seconds. Derby was in third place with a time of 4 minutes and 25 seconds.

Despite a small turnout for the event, a lot of fun was had, and it was an excellent learning experience for future event-planning. The muster team would like to thank Ginny and Jimmy Dawson for their support staffing the food station, the Town for the use of the school grounds, Mount Everett Sanitation for the use of a port-a-potty, and the small but dedicated crowd of fans. □

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# LOCAL YOUNG WOMEN FIND SUCCESS IN ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

By Jane Burke

On Friday August 7, Flying Cloud Institute celebrated fifteen years of its Young Women in Science (YWIS) Program by introducing the current participants and supporters to pioneers in the program.

A featured guest was Lindy Marcel, formerly of Mill River, for whom the program was developed. As a sixth grader in 2000, she showed great interest in science but had no opportunity to explore experimental science in depth, and no female role models. She was one of fifteen girls from the Berkshires who spent a week Bard College of Simon's Rock, learning from eight different female scientists by working with them in the laboratories. She attended the YWIS program over eight years, spearheaded the robotics program at Southern Berkshire Regional School District, and then attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to study mechanical engineering and management. Lindy went on to work with Arbor Metrics in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she honed her skills in computer science. Now she is in Brooklyn working with fifteen men at a technology start-up company they developed called Paperspace. They are creating a system that allows users to use a virtual computer in the cloud. As the visiting specialist for the current YWIS middle school group, she led a three-hour exploration into the structure of computers and the field of computer science.

Faren Worthington, raised on East Hill Road, also joined YWIS at a young age where she was able to study engineering and environmental science, her passions. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Vermont, Rubenstein's School of the Environment



Top to bottom, Lindy Marcel, Faren Worthington, and Samantha Swartz photos by Larry Burke

and Natural Resources. After exploring various aspects of analysis and mapping, she is now a masters degree candidate in ecological design at the Conway School of Landscape Design. As a guest teacher this summer, she talked about her journey to becoming an expert in natural resources and ecology. She led the girls in exercises in the ecological design process.

Samantha Swartz of Sandisfield was able to get time off from her internship at Amazon Robotics just in time to talk at the closing celebration. She first learned robotics from Lindy Marcel while a fourth-grader at New Marlborough Central School. Over her six years in secondary school she attended YWIS each summer and became the leader in robotics at Mount Everett. She is currently a senior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute majoring in computer science and robotics. She spent the last two summers as an intern at Google and has been invited to interview for a permanent job there after graduation.

Katherine McSpirtt of Mill River was unable to get time off from her job as a field engineer at Judlau Contracting, Inc. in New York City. She has undergraduate and master's degrees in civil engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Her job has placed her in charge of a very male-dominated subway tunnel project.

It is exciting to see the successes of these young women. They have blazed the trail for other young girls in the community, who can aspire to careers in engineering, science, and technology. □

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## NEW FACES AT SCHOOL THIS YEAR

By Jane Burke

Southern Berkshire Elementary Schools have a new principal, Stacy Burgess, who will oversee the education of 446 students in the three elementary schools. After four elementary school principals since 2009, Superintendent David Hastings is enthusiastic about what she brings. "She's wonderful, she's energetic, and a good fit for our administrative team."

A resident of Ludlow, she began her career teaching technology and third grade in the Springfield public schools. After four years she moved to the Quarry Hill Community School in Monson. Her keen interest in children and the power of excellent teachers, combined with encouragement from her principal, inspired her to go back to school to earn her credentials as a school administrator. She became an assistant principal at Quarry Hill, then at the West Street School of the Southbridge public schools. In 2013 she was voted "Best Teacher" in the Pioneer Valley "Reader Raves" poll of *The Springfield Republican* and MassLive.com.

She is a fourth-year doctoral student in educational leadership and supervision at American International College. Ms. Burgess said, "I really love working with teachers and helping them become better and stronger with instruction and building culture in the classroom."

Using her wide range of educational and professional experiences in urban and suburban schools, she plans to develop and reinforce professional development and instructional leadership initiatives in Southern Berkshire.

She said, "It's important for me to build relationships with the staff, students, and families. I don't have a personal agenda except helping students excel. I recognize that they all have individual learning styles."

She and her husband have a high school-aged son, as well as a soon-to-be third-grader. "I would love for my daughter to go to school here," she said.

After thirty years as the elementary art teacher, Donna Drew has turned the art room at Undermountain over to Brianna Ouellette. A recent graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design Master of Arts in Teaching program, Ms. Ouellette is enthusiastically preparing to meet her students. She describes herself as a photographer although she delights in telling stories by constructing three dimensional mini-sets that she captures with her camera.



Stacy Burgess (top) and Brianna Ouellette photos by Jane Burke

While she wants to teach the "elements of art," she talked of particularly enjoying collaborating with a fifth-grade science teacher using microscopes to find inspiration for art. She hopes to incorporate visiting artists and field trips to studios into her curriculum so that children can meet professionals in the region.

A native of Seymour, Connecticut, she has relocated to West Stockbridge with her partner, who is a sculptor.

Not a new face but a new location: Long-time New Marlborough kindergarten teacher Erna Lampman has retired and Lynn Webster is moving from Early K/K at the Monterey School to take over Erna's room at New Marlborough Central School. Lynn received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Studio Art at Dartmouth College in Studio Art, and her Masters of Arts in Early Childhood Education from Wheelock College. Since no students enrolled at Monterey School, the school will be closed for repairs during this academic year. □



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## NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

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*Circling the Sun*, by Paula McLain  
*Code of Conduct*, by Brad Thor  
*I, Ripper*, by Stephen Hunter  
*The Book of Speculation*, by Erika Swyler  
*The Other Daughter*, by Lauren Willig  
*Kitchens of the Great Midwest*, by J. Ryan Stradal  
*The Architect's Apprentice*, by Elif Shafak  
*Ideal*, by Ayn Rand

### Adult Nonfiction

*Cognitive Cooking with Chef Watson:*  
*Recipes for Innovation from IBM & the Institute of Culinary Education*, by Watson  
*Headstrong: 52 Women Who Changed Science and the World*, by Rachel Swaby  
*How to Prune Trees Shrubs & Climbers*, by Richard Bird  
*Avenue of Spies: A True Story of Terror, Espionage, and One American Family's Heroic Resistance in Nazi-Occupied Paris*, by Alex Kershaw

### Children's Fiction

*What Pet Should I Get*, by Dr. Seuss  
*Ask Me*, by Bernard Waber  
*Bee Dance*, by Rick Chrustowski  
*The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*, by Julia Sarcone-Roach  
*Zita the Spacegirl*, by Ben Hatke  
*Curtain Up*, by Lisa Fiedler  
*Smile*, by Raina Telgemeier  
*Paper Towns*, by John Green



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photo by Larry Burke

The New Marlborough Friends of the Library would like to thank all those who contributed to the Annual Book and Bake Sale! The event was a great success thanks to all of you.

# Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

**Emergency calls: Police, Fire, and Medical: 911**

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

## NM5VN Editorial Team

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 2015.

All copy must be submitted no later than September 15.

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

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