



New Marlborough 5 Village News

VOL XIX
NO 5
September 2018

Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

Scouting Report: THE YORK LAKE LOOP

By Joe Poindexter

If you have walked the York Lake Loop Trail recently, you have seen the trillium, star flower, bunchberry, Indian pipe, club moss, and woodland fern that line the trail. You may have harvested a prized mushroom or two. Alas, the trail contains numerous brook and wetland crossings, most of them in disrepair, and your boots probably got muddy.

Enter Philip Hall. Philip, a fifteen-year-old Boy Scout from Granville, Massachusetts, has embarked on a project to replace or create some twenty-five crossings where the trail encounters a slick of wetland mud or a slippery cleft or a brooklet running downhill to the lake. The object: for trail walkers, a smooth circuit; for Philip, an Eagle Scout badge. Starting this fall, he and crews of eight to ten Scouts from Troop 114, based in Southwick, Massachusetts, will begin work on the west side of the lake. Depending on the progress they make, the work is likely to continue into next spring.

The Halls, Philip and parents Ron and Elizabeth, have been coming to York Lake for years, preferring it to lakes and ponds closer to home because of its peaceful sylvan setting and its freedom from motorized craft. Last year, as part of a quest for the Hornaday Award, a Boy Scout medal given upon the completion of a certain number of environmental conservation projects, Philip erected a cleverly designed receptacle for fishing line and disused lures that might otherwise be tossed onto the lakeshore. It was then that he conceived of the trail project.

INSIDE:	
The Cannabis Committee.....	2
Board of Selectmen	5
Cultural Council	9
Ben Harms - Music & More... ..	10
The Way We Were	12
Elihu Burritt Day.....	14
Neighbors.....	16
Wildlife Neighbors.....	18
Broadband Update.....	20
Upcoming	21
Our Town's Future.....	22
Historical Society	24
Recipe of the Month.....	25
The Log	26
School News.....	28
Library.....	30

Working with Adam Morris, a district director of the state Department of Conservation and Recreation, which manages York Lake and the surrounding Sandisfield State Forest, Philip inventoried the problem spots on the trail and prepared a lengthy environmental impact statement to present to DCR management and the New Marlborough Conservation Commission. He was impressed when all five members of the Commission trooped out to the site to confirm his report – and delighted when they gave him the go-ahead.

The new crossings will be fashioned from two 8-foot long planks of tamarack (also called American larch), 10 inches wide and 2 inches thick, laid side by side on 6 x 6 x 14-inch footings. Tamarack retains much of its weather-resistant resin when milled and, unlike pressure-treated pine, melds nicely with a rustic setting. Some of the planks can be brought to the far end of the trail via a no-longer maintained section of Idle Hour Road. Philip and Adam are considering supplying other sections of the trail using canoes or rowboats. Either way, a fair amount of Scout power will be harnessed, and Philip and his crew plan to camp out at the lake over fall weekends to get the job done.

Starting sometime next year, the York Lake Loop Trail could be, well, a walk in the park. □



Philip Hall, aspiring Eagle Scout, stands before York Lake, where he will soon undertake the big job of improving the loop trail around the lake.

photo by Joe Poindexter

THE CANNABIS COMMITTEE ROLLS ON

As promised, the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee (CAHC) has kept busy gathering information for the Planning Board, researching, studying, and inviting in a number of specialists. On the last day of July, the committee convened at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall to hear from Chris Gruba, Senior Planner with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, and from Gwen Miller, Land Use Planner for the town of Lenox.

Mr. Gruba spoke first, employing a Powerpoint presentation to move efficiently through a wide range of cannabis-related topics. Starting first with the broad options, Mr. Gruba described the high bar the Town would need to clear in order to establish an outright ban on cannabis production and retailing in New Marlborough: a two-thirds majority vote at a Town Meeting, plus a majority ballot vote at the following Town election. Another option (which is likely the one the Planning Board would have followed had it not been for the moratorium) would be to take no regulatory action, but rely entirely on state law. The final option would be to create local ordinances, or protective by-laws, to regulate marijuana. Mr. Gruba added that, with this last option, towns are entitled to collect a 3 percent sales tax and a 3 percent impact fee on retail establishments.

Committee member Sandra Fusco-Walker stated her understanding that an impact fee of up to 3 percent would also be paid by all marijuana establishments, not just retail. Mr. Gruba thought otherwise, but said he would look into that question further. Committee Chairman Daniel Doern ascertained from Mr. Gruba that the impact fees would be in effect for just three to five years, with some possibility of extension beyond that.

Mr. Gruba then moved on to detail the eight types of cannabis-related licenses: 1) Cultivation (which includes processing and packaging); 2) Craft cooperative (cultivation and manufacture in multiple locations); 3) Manufacture; 4) Retail; 5) Research (cultivation and re-



Photo by Larry Burke

Chris Gruba, Senior Planner with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, addresses a question from Daniel Doern at the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee's July 31 meeting.

search); 6) Testing; 7) Transportation; 8) Micro-business (cultivation and manufacture in a space of less than 5,000 square feet).

Another committee member, Eugene Cleary, asked if, in the licensing process, towns had any input in the vetting process of applicants. Mr. Gruba replied that yes, both the Town and the state had a say. He added, importantly, that the Town cannot prohibit a medical marijuana dispensary (RMD), even if a ban were somehow passed. And the Town cannot "unreasonably regulate" applications to create cannabis establishments. The Town cannot limit the number of retail stores to less than 20 percent of the existing liquor stores within the town. This translates to New Marlborough having a minimum of one retail license, one non-retail license for each of the seven other categories, and one RMD.

The next speaker, Lenox town planner Gwen Miller, spoke to the committee about the steps her town is contemplating. The conditions in Lenox are much different than in New Marlborough, primarily because Lenox already has three distinct zones: residential, commercial, and industrial, where New Marlborough only has resi-

DOWNING & LANE, LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

17 MAHAIWE STREET, SUITE 1
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

TEL: (413) 528-5040

FAX: (413) 528-5095

DENNIS J. DOWNING
DENNIS@DOWNINGLANE.COM

COURTNEY S. LANE
COURTNEY@DOWNINGLANE.COM

Heating Systems and Tank Installations Repairs and Services

"We don't sell oil, we save oil!"



License# 059667 MA
License# 392664 CT

James Lane
Southfield, MA 01259
413-229-2370

dential zoning. Therefore, certain areas in Lenox are already primed for cultivation and manufacture (in the Lenoxdale area) and retail ventures (along the Route 7 corridor). Ms. Miller said that Lenox is preparing to present the voters with two options, the first being the two-stage vote on an outright ban as described earlier in this article. The second option, upon failure of the first, would be a bylaw allowing production and retail sales in the non-residential zones of Lenox. She left the committee with copies of Lenox's proposed bylaw, and both she and Mr. Gruba received the thanks of the committee for their wealth of information.

Following the visitors' presentations, the committee, along with Selectman Tara White and Planning Board members Peter Tiso and James Mullen, gathered to discuss their next steps. Immediately the discussion turned to zoning, with some members saying that a commercial zone needs to be established, and others saying that zoning is beyond the scope of this particular committee. Chairman Doern, while agreeing that "zoning is integral," kept reminding his fellow members that the committee's mission is to help the Planning Board, and exists "to take the pulse of the town, kind of like a pre-zoning exercise."

Committee member Jackson Liscombe raised the idea that, rather than attempt a major re-zoning effort, the Planning Board might consider establishing overlay districts. (According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, "an overlay district is a zoning technique that allows a jurisdiction to superimpose additional requirements over a basic use zoning district without disturbing the requirements of the basic use district.") In this way, the basic residential zone that is in effect throughout New Marlborough would continue to exist, but with agreed-upon areas where properly licensed cannabis ventures could exist.

James Mullen then reminded the committee that the Planning Board had already done a great deal of work on overlay districts that would establish more commercial and population density possibilities in the village areas. The board had attempted, but failed, to get the Town to vote in favor of these districts in 2016. So, the groundwork on overlay districts already exists. Planning Board Chairman Peter Tiso followed up on Mr. Mullen's thoughts by saying that the board will be revisiting the draft for village (overlay district) zoning, "so it can pass, and then can be added to, to define where cannabis-related activity can happen." Mr. Mullen added that, once



The Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee huddles in for discussions at the July 31 meeting.

photo by Larry Burke

with Brian Riley, a lawyer who specializes in this area of the law. □

Larry Burke

The meeting with Brian Riley of the Boston-based public sector law firm of KP Law took place on the following Monday, August 6, where he presented a concise and informative discussion regarding laws pertaining to the adult use of marijuana in Massachusetts. Attorney Riley answered many of the questions the Committee raised regarding this new business, including potential bylaws, revenue, and the Cannabis Control Commission's regulations and guidelines.

Mr. Riley explained that, in order to obtain a license for one of the eight possible uses, the state has developed extensive regulations for marijuana establishments, ranging from environmental issues, to security guidelines, to safety. The state also requires that, before a potential business can even submit an application to the state for a license, it must obtain a Host Community Agreement (HCA) with the town where it will be located, stating that the business is allowed by zoning or special permit.

Following Mr. Riley's presentation (which is available at the website listed below), the Committee discussed information they would share with community members on August 18 at Elihu Burritt Day. The plan would be for Committee members to be available to speak with residents between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to learn more about residents' thoughts regarding marijuana establishments being located in town.

CAHC met again on August 13 to finalize its handout for Elihu Burritt Day. (That handout appears on page 4.) The Committee also determined they will hold an informational meeting at Town Hall on Monday, September 24. Chairman Dan Doern invites anyone who has questions, concerns, or suggestions to please contact the Committee at ddoern@mac.com. □

Sandra Fusco-Walker

More information is available at http://newmarlboroughma.gov/Pages/NewMarlboroughMA_BComm/Cannabis/index

INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT FROM THE CANNABIS AD HOC COMMITTEE

Soon, the CANNABIS AD-HOC COMMITTEE (CAHC) will be asking your opinions on Adult Use (Recreational) Marijuana Establishments (MEs) in our town. Your thoughts will guide the Planning Board's work in addressing this issue and, if applicable, preparing a ballot measure for you to vote on. There are three main options for us to consider:

ALLOW & REGULATE	DO NOT ALLOW	USE EXISTING BYLAWS
<p>There are 8 types of ME:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cultivator 2. Craft Cooperative 3. Manufacturer 4. Retailer 5. Research Facility 6. Testing Laboratory 7. Transporter 8. Micro-business <p>We are allowed to regulate the <i>Time, Place, and Manner</i> of MEs and impose reasonable safeguards.</p>	<p>No Marijuana Establishments are permitted in town. This is also known as "Opting out."</p> <p>We are allowed to prohibit recreational uses but not medicinal uses. Those must be accepted</p>	<p>Review applications for MEs on a case-by-case, as submitted basis.</p> <p>Any application for an ME would be handled through the existing Special Permit process.</p>
<p><u>PROCESS</u></p> <p>To allow all 8 uses, an amendment to our Protective By-Laws is written and must be approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote at Town Meeting.</p> <p>To allow only some of the 8 uses, we must prohibit the others and use the DO NOT ALLOW process.</p>	<p><u>PROCESS</u></p> <p>To prohibit MEs an amendment to our Protective By-Laws is written and must be approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote at a Town Meeting and a second majority vote on a ballot question.</p>	<p><u>PROCESS</u></p> <p>To do this we let the moratorium expire and then allow applications for MEs to be submitted.</p>

Please attend our ✦ **INFORMATIONAL MEETING** ✦ **September 24 - 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall**

MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS IN MORE DETAIL

Information summarized from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission Final regulations, 935 CMR 500 – Types of Marijuana Establishments.

1. **CULTIVATOR** An entity licensed to grow, process, package and transfer to other MEs but not to consumers. Different tiers of licenses up to a 100,000 square feet of growing area. Entity may have 3 licenses.
2. **CRAFT COOPERATIVE** A jointly owned and democratically controlled Cultivator made of Massachusetts residents that abides by the principles of the International Co-Operative Alliance. Entity may have 1 license.
3. **MANUFACTURER** An entity authorized to obtain, manufacture, process, and package marijuana, deliver and transfer marijuana and marijuana products to other MEs but not to consumers.
4. **RETAILER** An entity authorized to purchase and deliver marijuana and marijuana products from MEs, deliver and sell marijuana and marijuana products to MEs and consumers. Retail locations accessible to consumers 21 years of age or older or part of a medicinal marijuana program.
5. **RESEARCH FACILITY** An academic institution, non profit, or domestic corporation that may cultivate, purchase or otherwise acquire marijuana to conduct research regarding marijuana and marijuana products.
6. **TESTING LABORATORY** An entity that does not hold any other type of ME license and is accredited to perform tests in compliance with the Department of Public Health protocols for testing marijuana and marijuana products.
7. **TRANSPORTER** One of several types of entities licensed to transport marijuana or marijuana products. Restrictions regarding holding other licenses apply.
8. **MICRO-BUSINESS** A co-located, small scale marijuana cultivator and/or product manufacturer with no more than 5,000 square feet of growing area. A majority of executives or members must be Massachusetts residents.

WANT MORE INFORMATION? Visit the Cannabis Ad-Hoc Committee's page on newmarlboroughma.gov for more information on Marijuana Establishments, to find out what other towns have done, state regulations, and other useful links. Contact the CAHC Chair, Dan Doern, at 229-2440 or ddoern@mac.com.

WHAT IS THE CANNABIS AD-HOC COMMITTEE? The CAHC was created by the Planning Board and approved by the Select Board to research the town's options for Marijuana Establishments, share that information with the townspeople, gauge the townspeople's interest in which, if any, uses are desirable to them, and advise the Planning Board of those findings. It works with impartiality and objectivity to fulfill that mission

Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

July 30: For its first order of business, the Board, with all three members present, reviewed and accepted the minutes of the July 17 meeting and then approved a temporary, one-day beer and wine permit for the Fire Company's annual pig roast August 18. As in the past, the Board waived the \$50 permit fee because it's an organization that benefits the Town.

Director of Senior Services Prue Spaulding submitted her annual report for the Senior Tax Work-off Abatement Program for the 2018 fiscal year. In it she disclosed that **fourteen seniors worked a total of 1,098 hours, helping with elections, stuffing tax bills, and working at the transfer station, among other activities.** For their work, the seniors individually receive the equivalent of the minimum wage of \$11 an hour, up to a maximum of \$1,500, or 137 hours, in the form of an abatement on their property taxes.

The Board committed to a series of twelve goals for the 2019 fiscal year:

- Closing the books on the 2018 fiscal year by October 1
- Hiring accounting firm Scanlon & Associates to audit the FY18 results
- Finalizing a cable franchise agreement with Charter Communications and beginning the "make ready" phase of the Town's broadband build-out
- Securing a MassWorks grant for the New Marlborough portion of Route 57 and reconvening the multi-town task force to develop a plan for doing the rest of the road
- Apply for grants and establish a building committee to bring Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Develop financial policies for the Town, as previously discussed with the Finance Committee



- Revise the school budget assessment formula
- Continue addressing the regionalization of the area's ambulance services
- Relocate the police department to the former firehouse in Southfield
- Reconsider the special permit application process and associated fees
- Identify and prioritize state programs to benefit the Town
- Investigate additional sources of revenue

Referring to the number and scope of items on the list, Ms. Shalaby stated that "These are not necessarily things we're going to complete this year. Some of them we will," she said, "but some we just need to get the ball rolling on." She went on to recommend that the Board at its next meeting discuss how it plans to address the items on the list and to identify next steps.

Under Town Administrator updates, Mari Enoch said the Town of Cheshire has apparently been awarded a nearly \$1 million Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). That's according to The Berkshire Eagle, she said, although as of this evening's meeting there has been no official notification from the state. **As previously reported, New Marlborough was paired with Cheshire on the grant and will therefore be entitled to about \$200,000 of the award, the money for which will be used for low and middle income housing repairs.** The grant will be administered by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC).

Ms. Enoch said it generally takes several months for the contract between the Town and the Department of Housing and Community Development to be finalized. The money for the rehab work will therefore probably not be available until October. In the meantime, the Board



ALL TYPES OF SERVICE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

- Tires • Oil • Brakes • Exhaust
- Mass Vehicle Inspection
- Commercial Inspection

ORMSBEE'S GARAGE 839 Mill River Southfield Road, Mill River 413-229-2515

will set up a meeting with BRPC for late August or early September to begin discussing the next round of grants, at which time the Town expects to apply for money to fund the Town Hall ADA accessibility effort. As previously reported, in addition to home repairs, the CDBG grants can be used for infrastructure work or to bring municipal buildings into compliance with ADA requirements.

Ms. Enoch also reported that the Police Department has several part-time officer positions it needs to fill. One is the result of recently-promoted full-time officer John Mullen going back to the Police Academy for full-time certification; another part-timer, Kyle Kemp, has resigned because of the extra hours he's putting in with the Egremont police force, while a third part-timer was not reappointed. Police Chief Graham Frank will be bringing candidate Hunter Lucey of Ashley Falls in for an interview and possible appointment to the department at a specially convened Board meeting set for Thursday afternoon, August 2. Mr. Lucey is a recent graduate of the part-time police academy.

And finally, Ms. Enoch read aloud from a disclosure form filed with the Board by Selectman White, who, because she's both a member of the Board of Selectmen and holds a compensated, nonelected position as Town accountant, is considered a Special Municipal Employee. The form seeks an exemption from the Board for Ms. White to serve in both positions while having what is described by Massachusetts General Law, as "a financial interest in a municipal contract" – in other words, a conflict of interest. The exemption form was approved and signed by Ms. Shalaby as chair.

Under Board of Selectmen updates, Ms. White reported that Courtney Turner updated her on the status of the proposed Revolutionary War monument honoring Sergeant Moses Adams, a New

Marlborough resident who fought and died in the War of Independence. According to Mr. Turner, the names of some two hundred and twenty men from New Marlborough who fought in the war have been collected and will be inscribed on a plaque to be affixed to one side of the monument, while a second plaque dedicated to the memory of Sergeant Adams, "as a representative soldier of the American Revolution who made the ultimate sacrifice," will be placed on the other. The text will also note that he marched with the Minute Man Company in connection with the Battles of Concord and Lexington and then joined the Continental Army where he rose to the rank of Sergeant in the 13th Massachusetts Line. He died at Valley Forge on June 13, 1778.

As previously reported, the idea for the monument was officially proposed to the Board back in 2016 by Mr. Turner, in his role as the Town's veterans' agent, along with Tom Adams, a descendant of Sergeant Adams, and Berkshire County historian James Parrish. According to the planning, the monument will be placed to the right of the two existing war memorials in front of the library. As Ms. White noted, no Town funding will be required for the project.

August 2: The Board met briefly at 4:40 p.m. to make two appointments. The first was to name **Hunter Lucey of Ashley Falls to a part-time position with the police department.** A 2016 graduate of Cazenovia College, where he majored in criminal justice, he subsequently attended the part-time police academy. He has also interned with the Sheffield Department, has done "ride-alongs" with members of the New Marlborough department, and is a member of the New Marlborough Fire Department. Officer Lucey's appointment is effective immediately and will run through June 30, 2019.

Referring to the number and scope of items on the list, Ms. Shalaby stated that "These are not necessarily things we're going to complete this year. Some of them we will," she said, "but some we just need to get the ball rolling on."

Forest Management
A.B.E.'s Logging & Firewood

Logging
 Land Clearing
 Firewood
 Snow Plowing

Ernie Beckwith Jr.
 ernest.beckwith@yahoo.com
 413-229-3437

MAHAIWE
CHIROPRACTIC
& HEALTH
SERVICES

Dr. Lawrence Bronstein
 Dr. Nancy Bronstein

15 Mahaiwe Street
 Great Barrington, MA 01230

(413) 528-2948
 www.DrBronstein.com

The Board also named Clayton resident Eric Schaeffer to the Planning Board to fill out the unexpired term of Patricia Hardyman who resigned last month after twelve years of service on the board. Mr. Schaeffer's appointment, which was recommended by Planning Board Chairman Peter Tiso, will run until Town elections next May. He's also a member of the recently formed Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee.

August 13: After approving the minutes from the July 30 and August 2 meetings, the Board, with all three members present, addressed the Town's road closure policy, the result of concerns regarding Police Chief Graham Frank's decision the previous weekend to close the Clayton Mill River Road for a wedding. At a minimum, the Board felt it should've been consulted on the decision, and also questioned the appropriateness of closing a public road for what in effect was a private party.

Working from a 2016 "Road Closure" memo from Chief Frank, the selectmen agreed to add a paragraph stating that "road closures and traffic flow impediments for community or private events require advance fifteen-day approval by the Board of Selectmen." In addition, the selectmen amended other parts of the memo involving road closures due to roadwork and emergency situations such as flooding and motor vehicle accidents. But before voting to approve the changes, the Board agreed that it wanted to see a clean draft of the memo and also to have Chief Frank and Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring review it.

The Board discussed a replacement for Tree Warden Myles Pierce, who had to resign, according to state law, since he's no longer living in New Marlborough. The Board agreed to place an advertisement locally and on the Town website seeking candidates for the position. In the meantime, it appointed Highway Superintendent

Loring interim tree warden to deal with any emergencies that come up.

The Board voted to renew its contract with Paul S. Kapinos & Associates, the South Hadley-based property assessor the Town uses for its revaluations. The Kapinos firm has been conducting appraisals for the town for the past fourteen years. The three-year contract is worth \$16,500 per year, a \$500-per-annum increase over the previous agreement.

The Board also discussed a report from Mr. Kapinos on the reasons for the steep drop in property values — ten percent and thirty percent, respectively — in the Windemere and Lake Buel neighborhoods, percentages which Selectman White characterized as "distressing." As she put it, "those

are really high negative numbers for those areas." The summary report from Mr. Kapinos does not really indicate reasons behind the reductions, other than to indicate the "adjustments" were based on "several sales and a review of properties that are for sale" in the two areas.

The report did provide the Board with a series of market-focused printouts, which the Board found impenetrable. As Mr. Yohalem said, "With this kind of data, somebody - either Paul (Kapinos) or somebody from the assessor's office - has got to come in here and lead us through it." (For a more detailed look at the reduction in property values and its impact on the Town see "Property Taxes: Shuffling the Deck" in the February 2018 issue of NM5VN.)

The Board was also puzzled as to why it received the report only two weeks ago, when, according to Mr. Kapinos's cover memo, it had been completed and sent to the Board of Assessors last October, all the more so since the Board had requested the report over a year ago. "How can we avoid this from happening again?", Mr. Yohalem wanted to know. So, going forward, the Board intends to ask Mr. Kapinos to copy the town administrator on any "relevant reports" he provides to

New Marlborough was paired with Cheshire on the grant and will therefore be entitled to about \$200,000 of the award, the money for which will be used for low and middle income housing repairs.

**Call today to join our family
new customers welcome**



**FUEL OIL • PROPANE • DIESEL •
• BIO FUEL • SERVICE & INSTALLATION**

168 Main Street Great Barrington 413-528-1410



WEBSTER
design landscape horticulture

413-229-8124 websterlandscapes.com Sheffield, MA

the Board of Assessors.

Mr. Kapinos also indicated in his cover note that the ten-year cyclical revaluation is several months behind schedule, but that the effort should finish up soon. Nevertheless, the Board wants him to provide a date certain when the revaluation will be completed, and that it be done in time for the results to be reflected in the tax rate for next year.

The Board received a letter from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) asking it to designate a representative to the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Southeast sub-region caucus. The purpose of the caucus, according to the letter, is to designate a selectman from one of the nine towns in the sub-region as its representative to the MPO, and a second selectman from a different town to act as an alternate. **The MPO deals largely with transportation planning issues affecting the county, and plays a role in the allocation of state and federal funds. As no one on the Board seemed willing to go, the Board tabled the issue until the next meeting.**

Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch

summarized the latest broadband developments involving the Town, Charter Communications, and MBI. She said a letter has gone out to MBI Chairman Peter Larkin and Associate General Counsel Michael Baladino, providing them with the Town's input for the grant agreement between MBI and Charter. She said she's also been working with Charter on the cable franchise agreement, and that Anna Lucey, Charter's government relations

representative would like to set up a meeting with the Board for the week of August 27 to discuss the franchise agreement and the timing of the project.

Separately, she said the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has completed the initial draft of the Town's ADA Transition Plan and has put it out for public comment. She said

the Town's newly formed Commission on Disabilities and the Council on Aging are currently reviewing it. The plan is a necessary next step before the Town can start applying for state and federal money to bring Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. □

Peter Schuyten

The Board named Clayton resident Eric Schaeffer to the Planning Board to fill out the unexpired term of Patricia Hardyman who resigned last month after twelve years of service on the board.

THE TOWN HALL THANKS YOU

The Board of Selectmen wish to thank the many people who provided letters of support for the resurfacing of 2.3 miles of Route 57. The Town has applied for a \$1 million MassWorks grant that will provide for culvert replacement as well as the resurfacing of 2.4 miles of Route 57 beginning at the intersection of Route 183 (New Marlborough South Sandisfield Road). This has been an amazing community effort. A big thank you to all. The awards will be made this fall. □



photo by Larry Burke

Roadwork Update: In the early days of August, the Highway Department tackled another section of road in town - Route 183 from the junction with Route 57 on up past the transfer station. It was hot work!



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices

Barnbrook Realty

Mary White and her team
are here to help you sell

(413) 528-4423
BarnbrookRealty.com

Berkshire Pottery Tour

September 29 & 30 10am-5pm



www.berkshirepotterytour.com

CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD

The New Marlborough Cultural Council has announced the grant application process for the 2019 grant awards. As in the past two years, applications for New Marlborough Cultural Council grant funds will only be accepted online, beginning this month. The deadline for submission is October 15.

Priorities for a NMCC grant are as follows, but not limited to:

- Applications proposed by residents of New Marlborough
- Applications that directly benefit residents of New Marlborough
- Applications in which the creative work is provided by residents of New Marlborough
- Applications for events or creative work that will occur in New Marlborough. This includes schools outside of New Marlborough that are attended by students residing in New Marlborough.

Requests for funding for school trips must follow the same procedures as all other grant requests. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Subject to approval of the Massachusetts state budget, the NMCC anticipates availability of funds for grants in 2019 to be at least \$10,000. Of this amount, \$4,400 is the state allocation to

local cultural councils; the remainder is made possible by the generous gifts of New Marlborough donors.

Important note: The New Marlborough Cultural Council is one of only seventeen councils in Massachusetts participating in a two-year pilot project for the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Those receiving grant awards for 2019 will follow slightly different procedures from past years. Upon receiving notice of a grant amount, recipients will immediately submit a simple grant agreement to the NMCC. That will trigger the release of the grant funds right away, rather than waiting to request reimbursement after the project is complete. Upon completion of the project, recipients will still submit a final report as in the past.

The rationale is to encourage the participation particularly of smaller organizations which won't need to put the funds up front and wait for reimbursement. For further details, the application, and instructions please visit <http://mass-culture.org/NewMarlborough>. Council Chairman Nancy Barbe will be happy to answer questions from potential grantees. She can be reached at nancy.barbe@gmail.com. □

Barbara Lowman

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

BULK SILVER (FLATWARE, ETC.)

DIAMOND BROKERS

APPRAISERS

Sachs Reisman, Inc.
jewelry manufacturing
25 Maple Avenue
Sheffield, MA 413-229-0050

21ST ANNUAL NEW MARLBOROUGH ARTISTS SHOW


INVITATIONAL AND MIXED MEDIA

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:
RON BRECHER, EUGENE CLEARY,
COOKIE COYNE, JACOB FOSSUM,
ELIZABETH LOMBARDI, PETER LONG
REBECCA SCHREIBER,
AND TIMOTHY SLEEPER

**OPENING RECEPTION
AUGUST 31, 5 TO 7PM**

**THE SHOW WILL RUN FROM
SEPTEMBER 1 TO OCTOBER 7, 2018
GALLERY DAYS ARE SATURDAY AND
SUNDAY 11 TO 4:30**

**AT THE NEW MARLBOROUGH
MEETING HOUSE GALLERY
ON RTE 57, NEW MARLBOROUGH**


SPONSORED BY THE NEW MARLBOROUGH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION 
AND THE NEW MARLBOROUGH CULTURAL COUNCIL

Goewey Painting
Services

Interior / Exterior Painting
Pressure Washing
Residential & Commercial

Your need is our job, no matter the size

goeweyervices@hotmail.com

413-229-2787 



PICKING UP THE BATON

A New Season of Music and More — and a New Conductor

By Anne Sommers

If you had just been hired as the chief executive of a company, you probably wouldn't be asked to run its largest division, too. But that is precisely what has happened to Ben Harms, who was elected president of the New Marlborough Village Association last year and then agreed to curate its celebrated Music and More series.

As the leader of Music and More, he is filling some big shoes. The late concert pianist Harold Lewin had originated and then administered the series for decades, single-handedly enticing world-class classical and popular musicians to rural New Marlborough's Meeting House, to the delight and edification of the region. Ben Harms, like Mr. Lewin a life-long professional musician, was a natural choice to carry Music and More into the future.

A long-time percussionist with New York City's Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Ben is connected to musicians with national and international reputations, but he also has deep ties to the regional musical community. He began consulting with others, including his wife, cellist Lucy Bardo, on plans for the 2018 series last November, just a month after the 2017 series concluded. One of their guiding principles was to assemble a series that would appeal to diverse audiences with a wide range of musical tastes: They wanted it to include a family-friendly event, early music, a concert pianist to headline the Harold Lewin Memorial Concert, a chamber music



Ben Harms, outside the Meeting House during this year's Burrill Day event.

photo by Larry Burke

trio, something off-beat, and, following the tradition begun by Mr. Lewin and Mitchell Levitas, something literary.

To kick off the 2018 season, Ben settled on the Tanglewood Marionettes. "We saw the Tanglewood Marionettes — who have no relation to the local Tanglewood — as a great, affordable way to attract families with young children," he says. "We were able to pair the marionettes with a free ice cream social, sponsored by the SoCo Creamery, and draw a happy crowd." The next concert will present a lively sampling of early music, played by the TENET Vocal Artists, which consists of two sopranos, a harpsichordist, and a performer on the theorbo (an instrument in the lute family). The group is well known to Ben, as he had not only attended some of their performances but also played with them.

Next, pianist Gilles Vonsattel — whose accomplishments range from the Avery Fisher Career Grant to winning Naumburg and Geneva competitions — will demonstrate his artistry while using a bit of New Marlborough history: Mr. Lewin's Bechstein grand piano, which was donated to the Village Association by his widow Susan. For Mr. Vonsattel's performance, the piano will be carefully transported to the Meeting House from the home of its foster parents, Will Reagan and Carrie Wilkins.

For the final two concerts, Paul Green's Classical, Jewish, and Jazz Fusion Band and the Neave Trio have been invited back by popular demand. Both have played

THE WHIP SHOP



OFFICE & STUDIO SPACE
High Speed Fiber Optic Internet

\$375 to \$400 / Month

- In Southfield Village Center
- Cell Phone Service
- On Site US Post Office
- Steps from the Southfield Store

FOR AVAILABILITY, CONTACT:

413-229-3576

thebuggywhipfactorysouthfield@gmail.com
Southfield, MA | thebuggywhipfactorysouthfield.com

for Music and More within the past few years. Finally, for the season's closing event on October 6, acclaimed local author Simon Winchester, who has assumed responsibility for securing authors for the literary segment of the series, snagged *New York Review of Books* editor Ian Buruma.

Ben's appreciation of the Meeting house as a music venue dates back decades. "I noticed the Meeting House in the early 1980's when playing at an early Burritt Day Celebration," he recalls. (He and Lucy had purchased a house in Southfield in 1981, and then moved to their current location in New Marlborough village in 1992.) "It wasn't until 1992 that I became aware the Village Association met there, and I attended the August annual meeting. I saw volunteering for the group as a good way to integrate into the community." He and fellow Village Association members Richard Stebbins, Brad Wagstaff, and the late Ed Stevenson launched efforts to spruce up the Meeting House as far back as 1998. Before the current permanent stage was built, they would assemble a temporary proscenium, constructed of 4' x 8' sheets of plywood over a rough framework, and then take it down at the end of the summer.

"Musicians love to play the Meeting House," says Ben. "It's an intimate space and the close-up audience always pays great attention to the music. Musicians also love the fact that the acoustics allow them to hear and react to each other on stage. It's just fantastic."

It's a pleasure he knows first-hand: The Calliope Renaissance Band, of which he is a member, backed up Shakespeare & Co.'s Tina Packer when she performed for Music and More in September 2017. The group, which includes his wife Lucy, brass player Allan Dean, and Steven Lundahl on recorder, specializes in music from the thirteenth through seventeenth centuries on original instruments. It won the prestigious Naumburg Chamber competition in 1976 and has traveled internationally for twenty-five years.

While Ben was born in Detroit, the Motown sound didn't imprint on his musical DNA, as his family moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, early on. He is not the first musician in his family – his nuclear scientist father hit the drums on weekends as a member of dance bands. Ben's first instrument was a ukulele, followed by guitar and piano. During his college years, he earned money by – shades of his father – playing with dance bands. Later, gigs with the orchestras of Broadway-bound shows during out-of-town try-outs earned extra cash. (He met Lucy at a summer music festival in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in 1966. Marriage followed a year later.) He has also worked with two luminaries of contemporary music composition, Steve Reich and John Cage.

He hardly needs it, but Ben can now add another line to his impressive resume: impresario. □

Music
and More

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

Saturdays at 4:30 pm
Through October 6
At the historic Meeting House
In scenic New Marlborough, Mass.



September 8 Vocal Artists TENET Uno+One: Italia Nostra
TENET's featured sopranos Jolle Greenleaf and Molly Quinn collaborate with harpsichordist Jeffrey Grossman and theorbist Adam Cockerham. The repertoire of UNO + ONE: Italia Nostra focuses on the revolutionary breakthroughs in vocal style that were championed by Claudio Monteverdi and his contemporaries.



September 15 Gilles Vonsattel, Pianist
An artist of extraordinary versatility and originality, and with an enormous range of repertoire, Gilles Vonsattel performs Brahms, Beethoven, Benjamin, Webern, and Schumann.



September 22 Neave Trio
The Neave Trio has performed on numerous concert series and festivals worldwide, including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center/La Jolla Music Society. They return to New Marlborough with a program of Haydn, Schumann, and Shostakovich.



September 29 Paul Green and his Band
Groundbreaking Clarinetist Paul Green and his band "Two Worlds" present a program of Jazz, Klezmer, and Sephardic music. The similarities and differences between the three genres are explored, and in some cases, combined! An exciting fusion of styles results from the common ground of artistic passion and fervor.



October 6 Award-Winning Authors with Host Simon Winchester
Simon Winchester interviews guest **Ian Buruma**, editor of the *New York Review of Books* in this annual favorite.

Receptions with the artists after the performances • Art Gallery shows through Oct. 7th

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION: www.newmarlborough.org (413) 229-2785

The Way We Were CHUCK WYMAN

By Joe Poindexter

When Chuck Wyman was ten years old, his father, Charles, asked him to clean up the nails that had spilled onto the floor of the sawmill he owned and operated in Hartsville and said he would pay him a penny a nail. Chuck accepted the deal (though the matter was probably not open to negotiation), but had a better idea: He rounded up four or five younger kids and offered them each a half cent a nail. The clean-up went smoothly, and, to Chuck's surprise, far from being rebuked by his father, he was praised for his entrepreneurial ingenuity.

This is a story unlikely to be replicated in present-day Hartsville. First of all, there are far fewer children in the village than in the 1970s, when Chuck was a youngster. And with the aging and shrinking of its population, it has lost the sense of cohesiveness that would make the assembly of a child labor force even thinkable. Back then, though, Hartsville was swarming with kids, and if they didn't actually run the place, they had free range. There was a notable lack of parental supervision. Kids went playing, fishing, exploring on their own. If you needed to get somewhere, you either biked there or walked. "No one got mad at you for walking across their property," says Chuck. On Halloweens, locals learned not to drive through Hartsville. Those who were ignorant of local custom got pelted with eggs.

Chuck Wyman started life in 1962 in Oregon. Some years before, his father had sold the Charles Wyman Lumber Co., and moved west for what he hoped would be brighter prospects. He met his future wife, Miladeen, in Arizona, but was frozen out of the logging business in the Southwest by the larger concerns there. The couple moved to Oregon, where Chuck was born and then returned to Hartsville in 1966. Soon thereafter, Charles accepted an offer to reacquire his old saw mill.



Chuck, at age five, awaiting the bus on his first day of school

For Chuck, right from the beginning, the village felt like one big playground: His dad once improvised a bit of playground equipment, a kind of whirlygig, by inserting a vehicle axle into the center of a large wire spool. The object, in Chuck's recollection, would be to try to spin the spool fast enough to dislodge the kids sitting on it. In the summer, there was the Konkapot River, which flows right through Hartsville, for fishing, tubing, and for its swimming holes — both next to the bridge right in the village and upriver across from the Fish Hatchery.



In 1974, after three seasons in which they lost every game they played, the Mill River Red Sox won the Kiwanis league title. Kneeling, from left: Matt Eline, Jimmy Sali, Doug Bosworth, Bruce Barth, Scott Hill, Billy Fennell, and John Broggi. Standing: Chuck Wyman, Pam Maloney, Mike Fleming, Mike Johnston, Billy Litchfield, Johnny Ormsbee, and Kelly Johnston. The coaches were Jim Edelman, left, and Ernie Louison.



High schoolers Chuck Wyman, standing, and Chuck Terry get instruction from Welles Sellow.

And there was exploring in the woods and hills that surrounded the village.

The lack of supervision could be risky. When he was eight or nine, Chuck discovered a family of baby snakes under a piece of plywood in a field in back of the Grange Hall. He put them in a bottle and brought them home. His father took one look and told him, in no uncertain terms, to "get those snakes out of the house." They were rattlers.

But there was also structure. When

you fell out of line, there were consequences. If you acted up on the school bus — the stop in Hartsville, alone, filled half the bus — the driver would tell you to get off, Chuck recalls. He remembers the day when he and Johnny Ormsbee got into a fight in the playground at New Marlborough Central. One of the teachers, Mrs. Burnett, grabbed the two of them by their earlobes and marched them into the principal's office, her grip so firm that she broke the skin on Chuck's lobe. Today, perhaps, such corporal assertiveness would be frowned upon, but back then, Chuck's Dad sided with Mrs. Burnett.

Chuck was paid for whatever work he did. "If I made a dollar," he says, "fifty cents went into my pocket, fifty cents went into the bank," which, in fact, was an account meticulously managed by Miladeen. (As the object lesson in fiscal discipline it was always intended to be, when it came time for Chuck to buy his first car, a '68 Pontiac GTO, the money was there.)

There was also baseball, played on the field behind the Grange Hall, with bases salvaged from scraps of lumber and base paths stepped off at approximately correct distances. Chuck was drafted by Coach Brian Callahan onto the Mill River Red Sox, the town's Little League team, when he was six — it helped that the team was short-handed. But Chuck excelled, mainly as a pitcher, and helped anchor what became a talented roster.

The five-team league, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, included the Dodgers and Giants, both from Sheffield, the Egremont Indians, and the Monterey Yankees. In 1971-'73, the Mill River Red Sox managed to lose thirty-three games in a row. But then the team went through a kind of group growth spurt, and suddenly it was formidable. In 1974, the Red Sox won the championship. Their reward: a trip to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, and new uniforms to replace the mismatched ensemble of shirts and pants that had passed from player to player over the years.

At Mount Everett High School, Chuck focused on a



Chuck as a teen and his father, Charles, at the sawmill.



One of Chuck's hobbies: the 2006 1200 Custom Sportster Harley, here arriving brand new at the Wyman home



Chuck today, on the front porch of the home he shares with his mom, Miladeen. photo by Joe Poindexter

course called Building Structures, taught by Welles Sellew (who liked to point out that his last name was the same as his first, only spelled backwards). Two houses built by the students are standing to this day, and Chuck credits it with helping him gain insight into the challenges facing the carpenters who are his sawmill customers.

Upon graduation, Chuck went to work for his father. On an early morning in the summer of 1983, he fell asleep at the wheel and crashed his pick-up into a utility pole. "I was burning the candle at both ends," he says. The vehicle was totaled, and Chuck's left leg was pulverized — broken in 130 places with four compound fractures and numerous bone chips. "It was as if you stepped on a bag of potato chips," says Miladeen, who at 86 continues to share her Hartsville home with her son.

There were setbacks during the two-year recovery period. Early on, a piece of machinery designed to flex his leg arrived too late, which resulted in a permanent bend at his left knee. Later, he re-broke the femur by putting too much weight on the ankle during a physical therapy session. Asked about the physical pain and when it finally stopped, Chuck said it hasn't and that he feels it "right now, as we are talking." To this day, he refuses pain medication.

After two years of hobbling around on crutches, Chuck was sitting on a couch in the house on a Friday afternoon watching television, when his father came in. "Dad said, 'Enjoy the program; you're going back to work on Monday — even if I have to carry you down to the mill on my back.'" And that was the beginning of a new beginning for Chuck Wyman.

Thirty-three years after his father's death, Chuck still puts in a full day at Charles Wyman & Son, which specializes in custom-molded lumber. He faces the future with a preternatural stoicism. "A lot of people are worse off than me," he says. "In this life, you play the hand you are dealt." □

BURRITT DAY AND FIRE COMPANY PIG ROAST

Despite threatening skies, the annual Burritt Day celebration went ahead as planned. The organizers had prepared for the eventuality of rain (which did arrive in torrents in the afternoon) by setting up a great number of tents. The thorough soaking graciously held off long enough for the large crowd to enjoy socializing while strolling among the book stalls and the white elephant offerings, sampling delicious foods, buying crafts, chuckling over the drollery of Roger the Jester, cheering the contestants in the 5k race, going on raucous hayrides, wandering through the somewhat limited edition of the classic car rally, and saluting two stalwart members of our community, Maggie's List founder Debra Herman, and recipient of the 2018 Elihu Burritt award for community service, Louise Yohalem.

And later that same day, after the deluge, the skies cleared off in good time for the Annual Fire Company Pig Roast. The classic dinner of pork, turkey, corn, potatoes, and salad was well appreciated by the sizeable turnout. Members of the Fire Company and the First Responders, along with their family members, worked hard to bring it all together. The band played, people danced, prize winners were named, and a fine time was had by all. It was an excellent ending to what has become a very special day in New Marlborough. □

Photos by Larry Burke, Anne Sommers, and Sandra Walker





NEIGHBORS



around twelve countries.” Congratulations to John for his skill and success in such a major event.

Mill River resident **John Weinstein** had an unusual and productive trip this summer. He writes: “I won a gold medal in figure skating (specifically in Artistic Free Skate, Masters Men II age category) at Gay Games X held in Paris, France, August 4 through 12. This event, held every four years, is organized by the Federation of Gay Games. This year, more than 10,000 athletes in thirty-six sports participated. Figure skating had ninety-one participants who competed in three days of events. I don’t know the total number of countries represented, but within figure skating it was



John Weinstein

photo courtesy of John Weinstein

Longtime Mill River resident **Frank “Bub” Twing Sr.** passed away on August 5 at the age of seventy-nine. An avid NASCAR fan, two of his favorite drivers were Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt Jr. He loved working on cars, mowing his lawn, and spending time around his house on Lumbert Cross Road, where he lived for roughly forty years. He worked on his father’s farm in Sheffield for the early part of his life, and then for the Riva Construction Company. Bub was one of eleven children and his nine living siblings, as well as his three sons, live locally.



photo courtesy of the Twing family

Frank Twing

Dr. **Rita Mathews**, formerly of Southfield, passed away on July 27 at the age of ninety-six. At the time of her death, she lived in an assisted living facility in Springfield, Virginia, to be near her daughter, Sarah Albamonte. Rita was in her early 50s when she obtained her Ph.D. in molecular biology in 1973 from the City University of New York, and then carried on as a research scientist, educator, and explorer for the next twenty years. She and her husband first came here in the late 1970s; she was drawn to the beauty of the region and spent increasing time here as she cut back on her professional commitments.

This led to a second twenty-year commitment as a volunteer in the effort to preserve the natural beauty of this area. She and four other New Marlborough residents founded the New Marlborough Land Trust in the late 1980s by buying a large parcel of land bordering Thousand Acre Swamp and donating it to the Land Trust as its first parcel. In the late 1990s she was appointed to the New Marlborough Conservation Commission, eventually chairing it and bringing to bear her expertise in the science and law behind wetland preservation. She also fulfilled a crucial role as a mentor in Flying Cloud Institute’s Young Women in Science program.

Jane Burke, of New Marlborough village, shared professional and personal interests: Rita was a generous force in my life on several fronts. She was the first visiting woman scientist for the Flying Cloud Young Women in Science program, where she was living proof that when a woman perseveres, she can succeed in science. The high school girls loved her stories of being the only woman at a biological research station in the Antarctic, and being mistaken for a secretary at a patent review meeting dominated by men. (She was in fact presenting her own patent.) At Mount Everett she volunteered to lead a group of a dozen girls from grades four to six in an investigation of the vernal pool on the campus over a six-week period. She treated the girls like real scientists and she praised them for their work. As a mentor and leader of the Conservation Commission she was very valuable to the town, although not always appreciated for her unbending commitment to preserving the wetlands. Her deep knowledge of the biology, combined with her relationship with the state regulators made her a formidable presence. Later in life, she personified the artist scientist. Using her vast experience in the outdoors around the globe, she mastered photography so she could better share the natural world with others. I think of her daily as I come across the many things she gave me – her microscope, a whale vertebra, guide books, wetlands manuals, photographs, and even her wooden salad bowl. She still inspires me as I remember her strength and energy.

Mary Richie Smith, of Mill River, was struck by Rita's experiences in the Antarctic: Over frequent Friday evening dinners at the Old Inn on the Green, Rita shared with me her glittering (ice does glitter) memories of living on the United States naval base in the Antarctic while conducting scientific research, something to do with the blood properties of fish able to survive in sub-zero waters. Her stories were of course much about how she survived as the only woman on an isolated base with hundreds of lonely men. (She told me her solution! I'm not telling what she said.)

And how to learn to walk safely over possibly hidden crevasses, linked to a companion. She took many dramatic photographs of that incomparable landscape. Then, though she was no longer doing research, she led small Explorer Club visits to the region, and, awed, I asked if she could find me a place on the next voyage. And she did. So, for a brief while, with my eyes as well as my ears I shared something of her wondrous world.

Rita's cousin, Nancy Craigmyle, formerly of Southfield, was part of the formation of the Land Trust: When the Pryor property on Hotchkiss Road came on the market, Betty Taylor contacted the Williams sisters (Louise Devine and Edith MacGuire), Rita, and myself to purchase the property in order to "save" it in its wild state. Later we decided to form a land trust and make the property its first holding. After consulting with other land trusts, getting a lawyer, and with help from Ron Melvin, we were ready to go once Susie Hardcastle created our logo. We started the New Marlborough Land Trust with Rita as our first president.

Nancy Craigmyle's daughter, Nanci Worthington of Southfield has known Rita as a cousin for her entire life: With family loyalty came trust, something that she did not give lightly. As her next-door neighbor (half a mile and two long driveways apart), I had the privilege to spend a lot of time with her when she was injured in a fall on the ice, in large part because she needed an advocate who would make it clear that she was not your average eighty-four-year-old woman, and certainly should not be treated lightly or dismissively! It was during the early weeks of recovery that a lot of her opinionated bluster disappeared. We shared our versions of the same stories, our concerns, our frustrations and, of course, our opinions with great abandon. That I was no longer her cousin Nancy's little spoiled brat, but someone with whom she could share a bit of herself, was a sweet, humbling gift.

Don't get me wrong. She could be the most opinionated, obstinate, stubborn piece of work on the planet, with little concern about whether she thought you needed to know that or not! She could bluster her way through just about anything, fully armed with more information justifying her reasoning, with very little patience for those who didn't agree with her (see many Conservation Commission meeting notes.) But isn't that where many a great story about Rita Mathews comes from?

A funeral service is planned for Saturday, November 10 at 2:00 p.m. at Christ Trinity Church in Sheffield. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com



photo by Larry Burke

Rita Mathews

Your Local Family Owned Propane Company for over 60 years

We provide friendly, prompt & reliable service for all your propane needs



839 Mill River-Southfield Rd.
New Marlborough, MA

413-229-2800

Low Prices
Budget Plans
Bulk & Cylinder
Deliveries



Please call to join our family of satisfied customers!

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

Several recent accounts from our readers have centered on one of our avian neighbors, the **red-eyed vireo**. In Clayton, **Don Beauchamp** was shown “a very interesting nest, empty of eggs, but the mother sat there for at least two weeks before departing.” Don was able to get a good shot of the vireo on her nest.

Then came a question from **Scottie Mills**: “Do you know, by any chance, what kind of bird makes these amazing nests?” She had found two near **Scott MacKenzie’s** house in Hartsville, one containing a speckled egg.

I did not know the answer to Scottie’s question, so I turned to my friend and go-to wildlife expert over in Monterey, **Joe Baker**. Joe got back to me promptly with this wonderful description of the nests that Scottie had located and photographed: “These are classic vireo nests, probably by the **red-eyed vireo** (most common around here). They are almost always built in the fork of a mainly horizontal branch like this, and all the ones I have seen are grassy inside and with woven pieces or strips of birch bark on the outside. I am pretty sure the egg in there is a cowbird egg – they often parasitize vireos by laying in their nests and having the vireos raise their young. If these photos were just taken, I’d say it was even more likely a cowbird egg that was laid earlier in the year and caused the nest to be abandoned by the vireos; this is quite late for most insect eating birds to be nesting and having eggs in the nest.”

This summer has been one of the best in recent memory for **monarch butterflies** hereabouts, and they have been showing up in all their stages of growth in just about every imaginable spot. **Don Beauchamp** came across a chrysalis on the bumper of a car, **Kristen Sparhawk** photographed one on her grill, and **Joe Burke** found a veritable gang of caterpillars feasting on his milkweed plants.

Kristen has been fascinated by the life cycle of monarchs for many years, and has sent in this wonderful, informative report: “It is another amazing year for monarch butterflies in our area. I have been searching for their caterpillars and raising them indoors with my children for at least a dozen years, and in that time I have never found as many eggs, larvae, or adult butterflies as I have this year. The last two years have been very good around here, which is very uplifting after a couple years (2014 and 2015) of barely finding any.

“Over the years I have gotten much better at finding them. Last year, after I watched a butterfly actually laying its eggs one-by-one on different milkweed leaves in my garden, I learned to identify the eggs and watch leaves until the larvae, only about 1/8 inch long, emerged. Now my eyes quickly scan for milkweed leaves that have crescent-shaped holes in them - then I can tell a tiny Monarch has hatched there. If the hole has brown edges it probably hatched a while ago and is likely long gone, but if it is milky-white with the sap, there may be a tiny larva underneath that leaf still, if not there, it may have made its way up to the very newest and tenderest leaves at the top of the milkweed to continue its feasting.

“I’ve been bringing these small larvae inside because I find when they are that tiny they are easy prey for the many other insects and spiders who turn the milkweed into their homes for the summer. Indoors I will normally raise them until they emerge as butterflies from their green and gold chrysalises, but sometimes, when my containers seem too full or I need to be away for a few days, I will leave the largest of the



photos by Don Beauchamp

Red-eyed vireo in her nest



photo by Scottie Mills

Red-eyed vireo nest with suspected cowbird egg

photo by Kristen Sparhawk



Monarch chrysalis on an outdoor grill

photo by Joe Burke



Monarch caterpillars on milkweed



photo by Kristen Sparhawk

Just-hatched monarch larval caterpillar

caterpillars to fend for themselves in one of my three gardens.”

Another common sight this summer has been the **ruby-throated hummingbird**. Diane Nerwen sent in a great shot of a hummingbird with its tongue extended. She and her husband **Stuart Lawrence** collaborated on this photo (and of a beautiful **red-tailed hawk** seen in their back yard), using Stuart’s birding telescope and Diane’s point-and-shoot camera.



photo by Diane Nerwen/Stuart Lawrence

Red-tailed hawk

Last year about this same time there was a large population of **tussock moth caterpillars**, and they seem to be back in force this year as well. Unlike the amiable woolly bear caterpillar, the spikey hairs of these ones pack a nasty little punch. You do not want to pick them up, or you will receive a painful welt, much like that of the stinging nettle plant.

Finally, **Ari Korpivaara** of Southfield wrote in with this account of an adrenaline-producing encounter he and his wife Ellen recently had: “One sultry morning, I joined Ellen on her walk, hoping to see deer, foxes, and other wildlife she often spotted in the early hours. On River Road, we heard loud leaf-shaking, twig-snapping noises above us. I ducked, thinking a branch was falling on our heads. But the branch became a bird, a big bird, a **turkey!** As we walked we roused more turkeys out of bed and watched them fly furiously out of sight. I knew turkeys could fly. I had seen them fly into trees to roost. But I thought that was the limit of their flyability: fly up, drop down, walk around pecking. I never imagined they could fly so fast and so far. Like **bowling balls with wings.**”

Compiled by Larry Burke: lburke2@me.com



photo by Diane Nerwen/Stuart Lawrence

ruby throated hummingbird extending its tongue

Sandra Walker has also been experiencing close encounters with hummers: “Without our bird feeders up we are not attracting any four-legged creatures, but the hummingbirds have been insane here. I think we have six or eight here. We have to be careful on the porch as they fly through chasing each other at ungodly speeds...we duck a lot! I don’t know about anyone else, but we had never seen two feeding at the same time until now. They are usually chasing each other off.”

Sandra also sent in a photo of a **hummingbird moth**, also known as a **clearwing moth**. She said, “Strange how the purple and green of the flowers shows up as the moth’s wing because it’s clear.”



photo by Sandra Walker

Clearwing Moth



photo by Larry Burke

Tussock moth caterpillar

PRECISION AUTOCRAFT INC



- PPG Paint Guarantee
- BBB Accredited Business
- Eco-Friendly Waterborne Paint
- Laser Frame Measuring
- Plastic Welding
- We Arrange For Rental Cars
- Open Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00

PERFECTING THE ART OF COLLISION REPAIR SINCE 1979

1939 N Main St (Rt 7), Sheffield MA 01257
(413) 528-1457
www.precision-auto.com
email: precision.auto@roadrunner.com



SCOTT



MacKENZIE

EXCAVATING

Email: excavatorscott@aol.com
(413) 528-2921 TEL (413) 528-3864 FAX
381 Adsit Crosby Road
New Marlborough, MA 01230

BROADBAND UPDATE

The Plan Moves Ahead

Trucks are not yet set to roll and wire is yet to be strung, but progress is being made to finalize the necessary documentation with Charter Communications to bring broadband to New Marlborough.

"We have transmitted our comments to the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) on the Grant Agreement," said Michele Shalaby, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, "to make certain that the agreement properly reflects our understanding of Charter's commitment to the Town. The Grant Agreement provides state financing for the project and governs phone and internet service. Additionally, we are continuing our negotiations with Charter over the Cable Franchise Agreement, which deals with television service, and we

hope to meet with them in the near future. I remain hopeful that we can complete the documentation soon."

Asked if she was concerned about the recent ruling by the Public Service Commission in New York State that Charter had violated the conditions of its 2016 acquisition of Time Warner Cable and ordering Charter to find a buyer for its services in the state, Ms. Shalaby noted that, "We are continuing to monitor this situation and have asked MBI for their input. At this point we do not believe that the problems in New York will prevent Charter from delivering quality service in New Marlborough."

Stay tuned. □

Barry R. Shapiro

CERAMICS CLASSES OFFERED

Pottery classes for beginners through advanced adult students will start on Saturday, September 29, for four weeks (all Saturday sessions), from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Flying Cloud Farm, with Jane Burke as instructor. Supported in part by a grant from the New Marlborough

Cultural Council, the cost is \$10 per session for New Marlborough residents and \$30 for non-residents. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Contact Jane Burke at 229-3321 or janesburke@gmail.com for further details, or to reserve a space. □



A Farm Overview: On Saturday, August 4, the Farmer's Market was held at The Farm New Marlborough, where Tom Brazie conducted tours of the fields above the main barn, where he is raising cows and chickens, and improving the quality of the pastures through rotational grazing. John Pollock was behind the wheel of the Kubota tractor while Tom informed the folks on board the hay wagon about the farming methods he is employing.



Upcoming: Events Calendar for September and October

September 4: Massachusetts Primary Day, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Town Hall; voters registered to a party vote in that party's primary; independents may vote in any party's primary

September 7: New Marlborough Historical Society's First Friday. A program on medicine in the colonial era, free and open to the public, 7:30 p.m. in the Meeting House Gallery, wine and cheese to follow the program

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

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

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

September 24: Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee, information meeting 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall

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

October 6: Award Winning Authors: Host Simon Winchester talks with *New York Review of Books* Editor Ian Buruma; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House, with a reception in the gallery following the performance; \$15, \$10 for members of the Village Association



**Reiner White
& Sons, Inc.**
Remodel - Additions - New Construction
413-229-8450



SunBug Solar

Ned Wilson

NABCEP PV Technical Sales #TS-102415-004308

NABCEP PV Installation # PV-041115-004308

413 854 1453

ned.wilson@sunbugssolar.com

P: 413 884 1000 | F: 413 417 2225

66 Westfield Industrial Park Road | Westfield, MA | 01085

www.sunbugssolar.com

Thank You to Our Contributors

Bob & Deb Beham; Peter Goodman; Gail Belmuth; Ron & Mary Saunders;
and Charles & Stephanie Rothschild.

OUR TOWN'S FUTURE

The fourth in a series on the challenges and opportunities we face as we strive for a socially and economically robust community, this month's essay is from Jane Burke, who is co-founder and recently retired executive director of the Flying Cloud Institute. She holds a Master's Degree in Education from Harvard University.

It Takes a Village....

By Jane Burke

In last month's commentary on our town's future, Stephen Klein identified education as the most important single issue for the survival of our town. George Washington shared his view that education is of primary importance in a democratic society. He instructed American leaders to "promote... institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened." Thomas Jefferson attempted to legislate education for all but he was foiled by those who rebelled against the possible increase in taxes and the loss of time on religious studies. Massachusetts was the first state to establish compulsory education in 1852. Senator Horace Mann launched a campaign for the establishment of "common schools" that would "break down class distinctions to promote social and national unity for the success of our democracy." He convinced the legislature to set up a board of education and he became its first head. Under his guidance, schools were modeled after Prussian schools, where students were grouped by age and taught through formal lectures.

Public schools grew to become the cornerstone of every community in the nation. Their original purpose was to ensure that citizens had an appreciation for democratic values, understand what we have in common as Americans, and possess the skills to be productive members of society. While these goals remain laudable, it appears that schools have become less and less successful in reaching them in the 21st century. With the advent of national common education standards in the late 20th century, the pressure to quantify the knowledge and skills children obtain has increased, and this has led to the current preoccupation with testing in the essential subjects of language arts and mathematics. In most elementary schools, the subjects of history, civics, science, and the arts have lost ground so children can spend



Jane Burke

photo by Larry Burke

more time preparing for these tests. Interdisciplinary and project-based learning have all but disappeared. As an added burden, schools are now charged with the additional responsibility and cost of providing extra services for children with learning difficulties to help them pass the tests.

It is time for all in the community to rethink education for a future that is unknown. Locally, there has been great concern over our schools' sustainability. In our district, there has been an ongoing conversation about closing the smaller schools and educating all children on the

Sheffield campus where there is plenty of room. While this may seem like a good business decision, there has been little public conversation about the purpose of a modern education. If education is seen as crucial to a democratic society and the health of our community, then it is time to consider what changes are needed to help today's students prepare for tomorrow's world.

The notion that teachers stand and deliver knowledge to their students persists despite the fundamental shift brought on by the digital revolution in how people communicate and access information. Today's students are able to access information instantly on their phones. They can teach themselves by using YouTube videos, or browse for any factual resources they need. They are not the passive learners of the Horace Mann era. Many have become disengaged from traditional school settings.

There has been plenty of research to draw upon as we consider what might be done to make schools match the needs of our changing world. The Partnership for 21st Century Learning, a national group of teachers, education specialists, and business leaders identified the four primary skills students need to develop: 1) collaboration and teamwork, 2) creativity and imagination, 3) critical thinking, and 4) problem solving. Educational psychologists have

found that, when students have teachers who value them, they are more successful tackling the challenges of building these skills. Teachers' roles should change to coaching. Rather than impart knowledge in an authoritarian manner, teachers would become supporters who help children develop the confidence and resilience to take on challenges of self-directed learning and working with others.

In considering what school structure makes it possible students to succeed and gain the required skills, there is renewed interest in small schools. Researchers noted that small schools have distinct characteristics: Teachers, administrators, and school board members know each other well. There is a strong sense of a shared responsibility for student success, which can lead to easy acceptance of new ideas. Multi-grade classrooms and cross-age mixing of students allows students to develop leadership skills. Everyone must participate in order to make a project a success, thus promoting a sense of belonging, of pride in their community, their school, and themselves. Teachers know their students as individuals and are familiar with the family backgrounds so they can better meet individual needs and talents. Students also interact more frequently and informally with the teachers and with each other. Longstanding relationships are formed.

It turns out that we already have the foundation for providing excellent education for our children if we choose to stay small. New Marlborough Central School is widely known for its excellence. A parent who has three children in Mill River recently remarked, "We moved to New Marlborough from New York City so our children could attend the New Marlborough Central School. When we visited the school, we learned that children are connected to the outdoors, they work together on projects, they are encouraged to be creative, and there is a real sense of community established for the kids." New Marlborough Central has been proving what small schools can accomplish. Everyone is known, and teachers, parents, and community members have close working relationships. Collaborations with local resources such as the Land Trust, the Library, the Cultural Council, the Village Association, and the Historical Society provide experiences through which our children develop an interest in contributing to making a better world because they feel connected to it. The children all get to know each other through regular school meetings. They have an opportunity to work with children from other grades on school-wide projects. There are multi-aged classrooms. Children feel safe and understood, so they take on

challenging problem-solving experiences. It is no accident that many of the highest achievers at Mount Everett High School went to New Marlborough Central, where they learned how to learn and gained confidence in themselves.

Instead of thinking of smallness as a problem, it can be a solution and the basis for positive changes in the district. Undermountain Elementary could use the model of New Marlborough Central and create kindergarten through sixth grade mini-schools on each of the three wings that branch out from the central corridor in the school. A team of teachers could stay with this group over their elementary school years. Mount Everett Middle and High School could make similar teacher teams that work with students over time, enhancing the opportunities for social and emotional growth needed for adolescents to function in the digital age. With high speed internet, students can connect to resources beyond what the district can provide. The school setting provides a safe, non-isolating environment for on-line learners to share knowledge with other students and to interact with strong adult role models. A strong student government that is modeled after the national structure could provide excellent preparation for responsible citizenship.

There is no denying that funding the educational needs of our young citizens is burdensome, especially with four-fifths of our annual school budget being supported by our property taxes. But it is likely that the cost of education can be reduced without sacrificing smallness. Benefits and pensions are fixed costs, but there are other areas where expenses could be reduced. The Berkshire County Education Task Force was established with the purpose of finding areas where costs can be shared across districts for such things as special education and purchasing. Attempts continue to get the state to fully reimburse for transportation as was promised when regional schools were established. Creative thinking about scheduling of schools might reduce transportation costs. In the past, the excellent facilities at the Sheffield campus were rented by outside entities. A renewed effort to make the campus the learning center for the community could result in revitalized involvement by all ages, and provide an additional revenue stream.

The small schools can provide the education needed for the future. In a rural setting like ours, it is of great value to keep schools connected to all the townspeople, young and old. What better way to overcome isolation and have a vibrant community than to adopt the African belief, "It takes a village to raise a child." ❖

Historical Society News**HARTSVILLE REVEALED**

The schoolhouse at the intersection of Adsit Crosby and Hartsville Mill River Roads, unusual in that it had two stories, had a single teacher for all eight elementary grades. As recounted by Claudette Callahan, who presented a New Marlborough Historical Society First Friday program in August on the history of Hartsville, attempts to keep order were not always successful: "Dean Bigford, who walked to school like everyone else, remembered the time someone put a shotgun shell in the pot-belly stove," said Ms. Callahan. "The teacher made them all stay after school and said they would stay there until the culprit confessed. No one ever confessed."

The village had a self sufficiency uncommon in today's globalized world. It dates to the mid-18th century, when Captain Solomon Hart built a home there, which later became the Red Bird Inn, a stop on the stage coach route between Hartford and Albany. The small cemetery across the road, where Captain Hart is buried, is surrounded by an iron fence forged in Hartsville from locally mined ore. The village had sheep and cattle farms, its own blacksmith, its own general store and post office, and its own Methodist Church — which later became a grange hall and the site of bountiful dinners on Sunday nights. It turned to locals to deal with a rattlesnake problem on Dry Hill, which rises to the east of the village. According



Claudette Callahan, a long-time resident of Hartsville, talks about the early days in her village. photo by Joe Poindexter

to an early document, "the treasurer was ordered to pay two pence for every rattlesnake's tail brought to him, and tradition says that on good days it afforded quite a lucrative business, as well as a pleasant past-time, provided always, however, that some portion of the slayer's person did not come in too close contact with the other end of the snake."

The Historical Society's final program for the season, on colonial medicine, will take place 7:30 p.m., September 7, at the Meeting House Gallery — with wine and cheese to

follow the presentation. It is free and open to the public. □

Joe Poindexter

<p>CURTIS INSURANCE AGENCY</p> <p>Serving Mass. and Conn. For 60 years</p>	<p>Office: 860 • 824 • 7327 Res: 413 • 229 • 2966</p> <p>Paul Koneazny Certified Insurance Counselor</p> <p>49 MAIN ST. • P.O. BOX 748 CANAAN, CT 06018</p>
--	--

Our Patients Say It Best...

Top 10% of Hospitals in the Nation
24/7 Emergency Department Care
Joint Commission Accredited
Designated Primary Stroke Center
by MASS DPH

Fairview Hospital
BERKSHIRE HEALTH SYSTEMS

www.berkshirehealthsystems.org

Your Health. Your Life. Your Choice.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This month's recipe comes from my favorite cookbook, *The Saint Aidan's Mothers and Friends Club of Wagga Wagga Recipe Book*. My father was a farmer and mum would send him off every day to the farm with his lunch, and having a sweet tooth, there was always a slice (or two) of this cake included. Growing up, I don't remember the cake tin ever being empty, and if it was we would quickly fix that. The recipe was always doubled, and the second cake iced and frozen. While I don't bake this as often as I did growing up, it is still my go-to chocolate cake; it is quick, easy, and yummy and most importantly for me, the scent of it baking takes me back to the kitchen I grew up in, and reminds me of my mum who passed away in 2006. It's always nice to be reminded of those we love and miss. □

Fiona Kerr

Chocolate Cake (Quick)

Ingredients:

- 3 ounces unsalted butter
- 1 cup self raising flour,
OR 1 cup all-purpose flour + 1 teaspoon baking powder,
OR 1 cup gluten-free flour + 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ cup milk
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup sugar
- pinch of salt
- 2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons cocoa
- 2 eggs

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 360°. Grease the sides and line the base of either a bar tin or 6" square or round tin with parchment paper
- Melt butter (not too hot). Place all other ingredients in a mixing bowl. Pour melted butter into bowl and mix for 3 minutes at medium speed. Pour mix into your prepared tin and bake for 40-50 minutes. Remove and let stand for 5 minutes before running a knife around the edge of the tin and carefully turning onto a cooling rack.

Notes:

- Use only 1/3 of a cup of milk to make cupcakes instead of a whole cake
- Double the mixture for an 8" tin
- Double the mix and make 2 cakes
- If converting to gluten-free, it is best baked in a ring cake tin or a bar tin.

Icing

- 1-1/2 cups of confectioner's sugar
- 1/4 cup cocoa
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/4 cup of water

Mix the icing sugar and the cocoa together, removing any lumps. Melt the butter into the water. While hot slowly pour the liquid into the icing/cocoa mix, stop after about ½ of the liquid has been added and stir the icing until it is well mixed. If it is too dry, add the liquid 1 teaspoon at a time, stirring between each addition until it is smooth and spreadable, with a consistency of thick honey. If it is too runny add more confectioner's sugar or cocoa. Pour over the cool cake, spreading it out to cover the surface and let it drizzle down the sides (this is a thin icing, not like buttercream). Sprinkle with dried coconut or "100's & 1000's" (that's Australian for nonpareil sprinkles).



Digby, the cookbook, and the cake

photo by Fiona Kerr

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

July 1	9:09 a.m.	Caller reports a badly damaged, tan Buick sedan, with a portion of its front-end missing, heading toward New Marlborough village on Route 57.			
	4:38 p.m.	A Norfolk, Connecticut resident inquires whether, in accordance with a restraining order, keys to two of her residences have been turned over to the New Marlborough Police Department.			
	5:34 p.m.	The animal control officer is notified after a caller alerts the department to a golden retriever loose in the area of the Fish Hatchery on Hatchery Road.			
July 3	1:52 a.m.	A passing motorist reports that a pickup truck has hit a tree on New Marlborough Southfield Road just south of the village.			
	11:53 p.m.	A Mill River resident reports the sound of a woman's scream coming from the vicinity of the bushes behind her house.			
July 4	8:28 p.m.	A motorist, stopped near the Meeting House for driving in the center of Route 57, explains he is distraught over a fight with a friend.			
	9:09 p.m.	A team, joined by members of the NMPD, attempting to rescue a missing swimmer at a pond in Tolland, is called off when the swimmer is located on the shore of a residence different from the one to which he was thought to be swimming.			
July 5	9:59 p.m.	Cross to Canaan Valley Road resident complains of gunshots or fireworks.			
July 6	9:22 a.m.	Fallen tree limb blocks traffic on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.			
	3:25 p.m.	A South Sandisfield Road resident requests assistance in locating a tenant who has not been seen since her lease expired but whose belongings remain at the rental property.			
	9:50 p.m.	A driver, pulled over in Mill River village for erratic operation of his tow truck, explains he is on an AAA call and was conferring with an electronic tablet for directions.			
July 7	3:00 p.m.	A nearby resident reports a vehicle parked overnight at Umpachene Falls Park.			
July 10	3:19 p.m.	Following a collision into a tree on Hartsville New Marlborough Road, the driver is scheduled for an evaluation			
			5:36 p.m.		of his ability to safely operate a vehicle. An unruly visitor to Umpachene Falls Park is placed under arrest and booked at the Great Barrington Police Department.
			July 11	7:10 a.m.	Sisson Hill resident asks for assistance in ridding his property of a bear that has been attacking his chickens.
				6:44 p.m.	After a driver is stopped for speeding on Route 57, her vehicle is found to be uninsured, uninspected, and with a revoked registration.
			July 12	5:54 p.m.	Tree on wires on Mill River Southfield Road.
				9:41 p.m.	After a call from a Mill River Great Barrington Road resident concerning a male she did not recognize wandering her backyard with a flashlight and claiming to be looking for his dog, an officer identifies the male and advises him not to trespass.
			July 15	8:51 p.m.	A Foley Hill Road resident asks for assistance in removing a snake from her home.
			July 17	9:14 p.m.	A Clayton resident reports a tree down on Alum Hill Road.
			July 18	7:20 a.m.	A Hartsville resident asks for a meeting with an officer after being threatened in a family dispute.
			July 19	7:09 p.m.	Officer requests an ambulance to transport a Mill River resident, who is displaying psychotic, delusional behavior, to Fairview Hospital.
			July 21	11:02 p.m.	A Hartsville resident offers her driveway as a parking spot for a patrol car to inhibit 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. speeders.
			July 23	12:34 p.m.	Officer removes a tree blocking Hayes Hill Road.
			July 24	7:34 a.m.	Officer assists a Hatchery Road resident who has locked himself out of his car.
				12:26 p.m.	Tree down on Hartsville Mill River Road.
				6:13 p.m.	A visitor to the office reports trucks speeding past her Adsit Crosby Road residence at around 7:00 a.m.
			July 26	6:18 a.m.	A caller reports an attempted break-in at her residence on Mill River Great Barrington Road the previous night.
				3:30 p.m.	Officer called to investigate a Mack truck stuck in Lee Cemetery in South-

- field and damaging the grounds there. July 31 2:45 p.m. A Clayton resident reports a scam email threatening investigation and demanding payment.
- 6:08 p.m. A Lake Buel resident reports a boat accident.
- July 28 12:55 a.m. A caller reports a motor vehicle accident on Brewer Branch Road.
- 3:45 p.m. A tow truck is called when, after a stop, the driver is determined to have a suspended license, his car a suspended registration.
- 2:58 p.m. A Rhoades and Bailey Road resident reports that someone has dumped paint cans and other debris on his property.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

Fire and Rescue

- | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|---|---------|------------|--|
| July 2 | 9:42 a.m. | Brewer Branch Road Fire Alarm | July 20 | 6:20 a.m. | Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call |
| July 3 | 2:02 a.m. | New Marlborough Southfield Road MVA | July 20 | 6:32 a.m. | Aberdeen Lane Fire Alarm |
| July 4 | 7:19 a.m. | New Marlborough South Sandisfield Road Medical Call | July 20 | 10:15 a.m. | Mill River Great Barrington Road Fire Alarm |
| July 4 | 8:07 p.m. | Adsit Crosby Road Fire Alarm | July 20 | 6:14 p.m. | Knight Road Medical Call |
| July 4 | 9:13 p.m. | Mutual Aid to Tolland Missing Person | July 20 | 7:56 p.m. | Canaan Valley Road Fire Alarm |
| July 4 | 11:30 p.m. | Hayes Hill Road Medical Call | July 21 | 12:36 p.m. | Canaan Valley Road Fire Alarm |
| July 6 | 9:15 p.m. | New Marlborough Sandisfield Center Road Fire Alarm | July 22 | 11:58 p.m. | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm |
| July 6 | 9:16 a.m. | Adsit Crosby Road Tree Down | July 23 | 12:38 a.m. | Church Road Medical Call |
| July 7 | 12:07 p.m. | Church Road Medical Call | July 26 | 11:03 a.m. | Mutual Aid to Norfolk, Conn. Structure Fire |
| July 8 | 9:04 p.m. | Konkapot Road Medical Call | July 29 | 7:15 a.m. | County Road Medical Call |
| July 10 | 3:21 p.m. | Route 57 MVA | July 29 | 8:16 p.m. | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call |
| July 11 | 12:05 a.m. | Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call | July 29 | 9:08 p.m. | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call |
| July 15 | 11:55 p.m. | Mutual Aid to Alford Medical Call | | | |
| July 17 | 1:54 p.m. | Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call | | | |
| July 19 | 8:10 p.m. | Hayes Hill Road Medical Call | | | |

Fire Company President David Smith

MEET THE NEW BUILDING INSPECTOR

Two binders, each around four inches thick, sit atop the desk; three or four others are on the shelf behind it. They contain chapter and verse on minimum standards for building in the state of Massachusetts, and figuring out what is in them will be the responsibility of Owen Wright. Mr. Wright, who will become the Town's full-fledged building inspector on January 1, is already serving on a part-time basis, sharing the load with outgoing inspector, Tom Carmody.

"Tom has been unbelievably helpful," says Mr. Wright of the transition. Between now and the end of the year, he will take three exams: two to demonstrate that he has plumbed the depths of the International Building Codes for residential and commercial buildings and one on the



*Owen Wright
photo by Joe Poindexter*

International Fire Code. Passing two more next year will earn him the title of building commissioner, which would let him serve as an inspector in other Massachusetts towns.

Mr. Wright, who is owner of Mill River Builders, a firm he started in 1990, has taken on the added responsibility because "it's an interesting job, and I thought it would help the town." Until July, he served on the Broadband Committee, when it recommended Charter Communications as a provider and was disbanded.

Mr. Wright's sense of community would seem to be a family trait. He is the son of Prue Spaulding, who is secretary of the Finance Committee, the Town's animal inspector, and the director of senior services. His son, Matthew, serves with the Fire Department. □

Joe Poindexter

School Report

NEW FACES AT SBRSD

Superintendent of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Beth Regulbuto has announced the arrival of two new members of the administration – Professional Development and Curriculum Coordinator Peter Dufresne and Elementary Schools Principal Charles Miller.

After twenty-one years in public education, five as a middle and high school social studies teacher and sixteen as principal or vice principal, Peter Dufresne sought this opportunity to play a different role in an educational leadership team. He has a Master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and is currently enrolled in a doctoral program concentrating in organizational leadership. He will continue to live in Wilbraham with his wife and two sons ages eleven and fourteen. Having spent time



*Peter Dufresne and his wife
photo courtesy of Peter Dufresne*

skiing at Butternut and hiking the Appalachian Trail, he already appreciates the beauty of our region.

As a youngster in public school, Mr. Dufresne struggled to succeed in some classes, so he has devoted much of his career to making sure that teachers are meeting the needs of all students, especially those at risk of falling behind. Both in his five years as a social studies teacher and his sixteen years as a school administrator, he has stressed that teachers need to go out of their comfort zone to find new ways to help students learn. "Teachers need to take a chance, be role models for students, and be willing to grow themselves." He went on to say, "Everything is about relationships, especially in education. What goes on in the

classroom has to make sense for kids, so we must teach them something of value."

During his first year, he plans to spend time learning about the District through observation and analysis of current practices, to determine what processes he can develop going forward to help teachers and students succeed. Of particular importance to him is knowing how each student is doing, not just through MCAS scores at the end of year, but by assessing them regularly throughout the year. As a principal, he created a quarterly assessment program that was easy for teachers and quickly indicated what extra help student might need in a timely fashion. He has already worked with kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers to have them devote time each day to



WOODRUFF MOUNTAIN
Landscaping

Outdoor Services

• Spring Yard Cleanup	• Edging & Mulching
• Lawn Mowing	• Pruning & Hedges
• Fall Leaf Cleanup	• Planting & Maintenance
• Winter Snowplowing & Sanding	• Brush Clearing, Chipping & Field Mowing

Landscape Construction

• New Site Design & Renovation of Old Design	• Stone Walls & Retaining Walls
• Soil Amending	• Edging & Mulching
• Garden Beds	• Stone Patios & Walkways
• Water Drainage Solutions	• Lawn Installations
• Driveway Repair	• Hydro Seeding

Proudly serving our area for over 15 years!

Contact Tom Brazie
413-229-2919
woodruffmountain@aol.com

linda@southcountypetsitting.com
southcountypetsitting.com

Bonded & Insured
Local References

Loving, Gentle,
Professional Care

Linda Fass
Certified Professional Pet Sitter
Dog & Cat First Aid Certified



South County

Pet Sitting and Walking
It makes me happy to make them happy!

413.248.6101

students who need extra help. He says, "This intervention block will also be used for assessment without taking away from classroom time."

In the area of professional development, he is committed to ensuring that teachers have what they need overall. He is especially interested in helping teachers increase the integration of technology into their classrooms.

The elementary schools have a new kind of leader in Charles Miller. He has already demonstrated his commitment to the District by moving here with his wife and one-year-old daughter. He says, "I hope to build my family here."

Although he is new to the role of principal, he has been preparing for this job over the past decade. His educational background includes a degree in sociology and anthropology from Colgate University, a Master's in Elementary Education from Lesley University, and a Master's in Educational Leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In his roles as teacher, diversity coordinator, and dean, he has worked to create programs to support students' social and emotional growth, to improve communication among teams of teachers, to build parent and community relationships with schools, and to develop curricular materials. Mr. Miller believes, "Learning happens through making mistakes, both for students and adults. It is through trying to understand what we did wrong that real learning takes place."

School culture has always been his prime interest. He said, "Being raised with five siblings and attending small schools taught me that learning requires that everyone has a sense of belonging and being valued." Since his first days on the job he has set out to establish



Charles Miller, with his wife and one-year-old daughter.
photo by Larry Burke

relationships with teachers and community members. In a letter to teachers he said, "Right now my main goal is to listen and learn. I'm spending my first one hundred days listening as much as possible and collecting data about our instruction, curriculum, students, and school culture. Apart from the usual informal contact and get-acquainted events, I plan to get to know you and the school through structured meetings and direct observation. I am hoping to sit down with as many colleagues as possible before the school year begins." He added, "By January, I plan to make a presentation of my findings and recommendations for going forward, but I am not a top down leader. I plan to bring all

stakeholders into the conversation so that there is a shared understanding. I like to work in teams and to be sure to gain consensus before acting."

Superintendent Regulbuto summed up her feelings about the new additions: "I am very excited to welcome both Peter Dufresne and Charles Miller to the SBRSD administrative team. They bring a wealth of experience to our school community, but what impressed me most was their positive energy, genuine love of the work, dedication to students and families, and their passion for working here at the Southern Berkshire Regional School District." □

Jane Burke

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe Street, Suite 1 Telephone: (413) 528-4300
Great Barrington, MA 01230 Facsimile: (413) 528-4306
email: ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com



New
Marlborough
**FARMER'S
MARKET**

**On the Village Green
Saturday Mornings 10-12**

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

The Spy of Venice, by Benet Brandreth
Something in the Water, by Catherine Steadman
The Lido, by Lilly Page
The Death of Mrs. Westaway, by Ruth Ware
Asymmetry, by Lisa Halliday
Shelter in Place, by Nora Roberts
The Dante Chamber, by Matthew Pearl

Adult Nonfiction

The Death of Democracy: Hitler's Rise to Power and the Downfall of the Weimar Republic, by Benjamin Carter Hett
A Future of Faith: The Path of Changes in Politics and Society, by Pope Francis
Pimp My Noodles, by Kathy Kordalis
The Perfectionists: How Precision Engineers Created the Modern World, by Simon Winchester
First, We Make the Beast Beautiful: A New Journey Through Anxiety, by Sarah Wilson
Buzz: The Nature and Necessity of Bees, by Thor Hanson
Braiding Sweet Grass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants, by Robin Wall Kimmer

Children's Fiction

The Grand Expedition, by Emma Adbage
Dude! by Aaron Reynolds
What's Your Favorite Bug? by Eric Carle and Friends
The Rough Patch, by Brian Lies
Click, Clack, Quack to School, by Doreen Cronin

Children's Nonfiction

The Big Book of the Blue, by Yuval Zommer

Books on CD

The Death of Mrs. Westaway, by Ruth Ware
Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants, by Robin Wall Kimmer
The Lost for Words Bookshop, by Stephanie Butland
Something in the Water, by Catherine Steadman



Library Hours

Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Tues. & Fri. 1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 Thurs. 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

► Qi Gong Classes

The New Marlborough Library will be offering Qi Gong classes Mondays beginning September 10 and running through October 15 at 7:00 p.m. Qi Gong is an ancient Chinese form of healing through simple movement. It can be done seated as well as standing. The 45-minute sessions will be led by Nanci Worthington and are free!

Space is limited to 10 participants. If interested, please call 229-6668 or email newmarlborough@gmail.com



(413) 229-2544
 Free Estimates



Herbert W. Eichstedt III
 Jason W. Eichstedt

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

Please fill in the form and send with your contribution to:

New Marlborough 5 Village News, P.O. Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

YES, I WANT THE *New Marlborough 5 Village News* TO CONTINUE!

HERE IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____ (payable to NM5VN)

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Town Times

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Building Inspector: Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Thursday 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Post Office: Mill River (413) 229-8582

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

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

Southfield (413) 229-8476

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

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

(The Southfield Post Office lobby is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Town Treasurer: Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Transfer Station Hours:

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

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

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

PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1

and can be purchased for \$125 at Town Hall, the Transfer Station, or by mail. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Late fee of \$150 after August 15.

Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
911**

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244

(413) 229-8165

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

Larry Burke, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;

Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Barbara Lowman,

David Lowman, Joe Poindexter, Jodi Rothe, Peter Schuyten,

Barry Shapiro, Pam Stebbins, Sandra Fusco-Walker

Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger,

Angus Kerr, Mary Richie Smith, Catherine Twing,

Tara White, and Michele Shalaby. Index: Donna Weaver

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated October 2018.

All copy must be submitted no later than September 17.

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

PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

New Marlborough 5 Village News
P.O.Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259
e-mail 5villagenews@gmail.com

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Non-Profit Org.
PERMIT #95
GT. BARRINGTON
MA 01230

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

SERVICE SECTOR 9/18

- **Cohen and White Associates, Monterey office:** Nancy Kalodner, Senior Affiliate Broker. Offering New Marlborough the finest professional real estate services since 1979. Call 528-9595 or (413)446-1111
- **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget-aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. (413)528-4960. chris@design-planning.com.
- **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield (413)229-0050
- **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com or (413)528-4300
- **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 (413)229-2369