



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

HONORING REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS

By Barbara Lowman

In July, the Board of Selectmen approved a monument to honor Revolutionary War soldiers from New Marlborough to be installed on the library lawn. This seemingly simple decision was actually the result of two years of work by many people.

Tom Adams, who lives in California, got the ball rolling in a letter to the Board of Selectmen, in which he proposed a monument to his ancestor, Moses Adams, a resident of New Marlborough who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War from the very start at Lexington and Concord. The Board passed the letter on to Burial/Soldier Grave Agent Courtney Turner to investigate further. Mr. Turner contacted Tom Adams, and Mr. Adams came here to discuss the idea. He mentioned that he is active in the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) in California, and that there is a chapter of the SAR in western Massachusetts, headed by Tom Vincent. When Mr. Vincent learned of the project, he contacted Mr. Turner and has been helpful in support of the monument. It was decided early by Mr. Turner and the selectmen that, in addition to a plaque commemorating Moses Adams, there should be a second, larger plaque carrying the names of all New Marlborough residents who were Revolutionary War veterans.

How to compile such a list? The starting point was *The History of New Marlborough 1735 – 1944* by Hadley K. Turner, which gave many names but was by no means complete. James Parrish, a historian in Great Barrington who specializes in the Revolutionary War period, suggested *The Register of Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, which turned out to be a seventeen-volume

alphabetical listing of Revolutionary War veterans. These volumes were digitized several years ago. Luckily, Mr. Adams was able to scan this for any references to New Marlborough, which narrowed the field to 418 names. A second scan was able to eliminate, for example, a Sandisfield resident who entered service via the Town of New Marlborough, and reduced the list to 223 names. At this point, Mr. Turner and Mr. Parrish began the process of verifying, proofreading, and copyediting the list for the larger plaque. Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Ann Riou joined the effort; she turned out to have a laser focus on spelling and punctuation inconsistencies as she prepared the final list. Through all of this, Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck contributed hours of typing up the ever-changing versions of the list.

The total cost of the monument is around \$12,000. Currently, the Harold D. Rood New Marlborough American Legion Post 350 is providing the funds, although Mr. Vincent thought the Massachusetts Society of the SAR could also contribute to the project. The monument will be constructed of Barre granite, from Vermont, reputed to last for centuries. The plaques will be produced by the Erie Landmark Company in Erie, Pennsylvania.



A designer's rendering of the monument that will soon take its place on the library lawn in Mill River.

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Honoring Revolutionary War Veterans, continued

Beyond this, though, the project reverted to volunteers. Anthony (Butch) Consolini, a Post 350 member, enlisted his colleagues, engineers at Maximilian Construction in Pittsfield, to develop the physical plans and specifications for the monument. Mr. Consolini has continued to coordinate this aspect of the project, and Maximilian Construction is donating the forms for the concrete footing. New Marlborough contractor Michael White will construct and install the footing.

Rich Atwood, of Monterey, will install the three pieces of granite. And Librarian Deb O'Brien and the Library Board of Trustees have been supportive throughout this lengthy process.

The monument is expected to be completed this fall. At that time, it will be dedicated to the memory of Revolutionary War veterans and Moses Adams, but also with thanks to the numerous people whose efforts have made it possible. □

PROGRESS ON THE SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION FRONT

At its August 22 meeting, the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee passed a motion "to endorse necessary actions toward initializing discussion with Berkshire Hills Regional School District towards the creation of a consolidated preK-12 Regional School District." In an effort to expedite communication, the committee authorized the chairman and vice chairman, Jane Burke and Jonathan Bruno, to personally deliver this motion to the Berkshire Hills Regional School District School Committee that was in session on the same night. The two were welcomed and they sat in on the BHRSD discussion of the SBRSD School Committee's letter, which requests a meeting of five representatives from each district's school committee and superintendent to discuss educational vision, goals, and values. The BHRSD committee voted unanimously to participate in such an informal interchange of ideas. It was agreed that the two committee chairmen would work to set up a meeting as soon as possible.

The genesis of this movement forward was the regional roundtable meeting called by SBRSD Superintendent Beth Regulbuto on August 1. This roundtable was established two years ago by Ms. Regulbuto so that the boards of selectmen and the finance committees of all five towns in the district could meet to share ideas about district affairs on a regular basis. At this particular meeting, Ms. Regulbuto asked to hear how each town felt about the merits of the BHRSD proposal for a new

regional high school. A lively discussion ensued. Rene Wood, chairman of the Sheffield Board of Selectmen, asked the group to look for common ground. They came up with the basis for a letter that each town would send to the BHRSD. The letter listed these points:

- We are ready to discuss school consolidation
- The discussion of school consolidation may expand beyond high school consolidation
- Formal state guidelines will not govern discussions at this time
- The discussion will be town-centric and town directed
- Representatives from all eight towns are encouraged to participate, as they elect
- One representative from each school district's school committee and the two superintendents are requested to participate
- We ask that the first meeting be held by Friday, September 13

On August 14, the SBRSD school committee's Ad Hoc Southern Berkshire Educational Futures subcommittee met with Ms. Regulbuto to consider a response to the towns' position on consolidation and the complexity of possible outcomes. The group came to the conclusion that it would be wise to look at the educational gains and losses involved in full regionalization of PreK to twelfth grades, rather than just the high schools. In the interest of getting that information to BHRSD quickly, a motion was crafted that could be passed by full school committee at an earlier-than-normal meeting on August 22, and so it was that the Chairman and Vice Chairman were able to head up Route 7 to deliver the motion directly to the BHRSD school committee.

Community members are encouraged to share their thoughts about the educational opportunities in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, as well as the prospects of a merger of the two school districts. Upcoming discussion opportunities at the library and at schools will be posted. Comments and questions can be sent to School Committee Chairman Jane Burke at jburke@schoolcomm.sbrsd.org. □

Jane Burke

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THE NEW MARLBOROUGH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

A Change at the Top

The Board of Directors of the New Marlborough Village Association, along with a number of NMVA members, held the association's annual meeting at the New Marlborough Meeting House on August 3. The financial health of the non-profit organization was declared to be in good condition by its treasurer, Barry R. Shapiro. A generous bequest from the late Margaret Phillips has greatly solidified the endowment fund that enables the Village Association to keep the Meeting House and the adjoining green looking as beautiful as it does.

Outgoing President Ben Harms spoke of the great loss to New Marlborough and to the Village Association of Peggy Phillips, and also of Mike Levitas, who had initiated and for many years hosted the annual Award-Win-



Retiring President Ben Harms and newly installed President John Schreiber, seen at the conclusion of the New Marlborough Village Association's annual meeting.

ning Author's event that caps off the Music & More program each year. On a more upbeat note, Mr. Harms spoke enthusiastically of the recent hiring of Gerald Seligman to oversee Music & More, and of Mr. Seligman's plans to revitalize the program that has, in recent years, seen something of a decline in attendance.

As the final item on the agenda, the election of officers for the coming year resulted in the election of the Association's new president, John Schreiber. In accepting the office, John saluted the work done by previous presidents, Richard Stebins, Louise Yohalem, and Ben Harms, and spoke of his pleasure in taking on this new role in an organization that has been part of his life for many decades prior to his settling here as a fulltime resident. □

Larry Burke

photo by Larry Burke

CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD

The New Marlborough Cultural Council has announced the grant application process for the 2020 grant awards. As in the past two years, applications for New Marlborough Cultural Council grant funds will only be accepted on line, beginning September 1, 2019. 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. The Council asks that grant requests for any type of school programming include a statement of support from the school. In-

complete applications will not be considered. Subject to approval of the Massachusetts state budget, the NMCC anticipates availability of funds for grants in 2020 to be \$16,000. Of this amount, \$4,500 is the state allocation to local cultural councils; the remainder is made possible by the generous gifts of New Marlborough donors.

Important note: Those receiving grant awards for 2020 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, who 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 chair Nancy Barbe will be happy to answer questions from potential grantees. She can be reached at nmcculturalcouncil@gmail.com. □

Barbara Lowman

Correction: A story in the August issue of the 5 Village News on Brandon Wilson's pursuit of an Eagle Scout ranking failed to make clear that Brandon's 911 sign campaign still needed approval from his scoutmaster and two other reviewing committees for it to count as an Eagle project. The approval was granted August 26.

Town Business Is Your Business BOARD OF SELECTMEN



July 29: The Board of Selectmen, with all three members present, began the meeting by approving with minor changes a decommissioning assurance agreement with CVE North America covering the company's 6.2-megawatt solar project known as Sunrise, on Knight Road. According to the terms, CVE will deposit \$98,050 with the Town to be held in an interest-bearing escrow account at a local bank, as surety against the site being properly decommissioned at the end of the project's life.

The Board also reviewed two decommissioning bond agreements from Park Avenue Solar for its solar projects adjacent to Mill River Southfield Road, but only approved one of them, the \$35,000 bond agreement. It rejected the other for \$75,000 because of problems with the way in which it was structured. After some discussion, however, company representative Kirt Mayland, who was present for the meeting, said he was sure he could work out an acceptable solution with his principals and would be back with a revised agreement within the next few weeks.

The Board then awarded a contract to grade and pave the Highway Department garage yard to DelSignore Blacktop Paving Inc. of Troy, New York, with a bid of \$82,498. That's almost \$33,000 less than the amount approved by the voters at Annual Town Meeting in May. There was one other bidder, Eurovia Atlantic Coast LLC of Lee, with a bid of \$95,472. The Board also awarded a chip-sealing contract for a section of Brewer Hill Road to All States Asphalt Inc. of Sunderland for \$38,299. All States was the only bidder. Both awards were recommended to the Board by Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring.

Up next, Director of Senior Services Prue Spaulding submitted her annual report for the Senior Tax Work-

Off Abatement program for FY19. According to the report, sixteen seniors worked a total of 1,152 hours last year, helping out with elections, stuffing property tax bills, working at the transfer station, and in one case making a major contribution to the development of the Town's new website.

For their work, the seniors individually received the equivalent of the minimum wage of \$11 an hour for work performed in calendar year 2018 and \$12 an hour in 2019, up to a maximum of \$1,500, in the form of an abatement on their property taxes. As was noted, the program is one of the few areas involving Town spending that is not approved by the voters at Annual Town Meeting. So, the Board for the first time asked Mrs. Spaulding for a list of the projects covered under the program and the approximate number of hours seniors worked on each. In addition, it set up a process by which new projects would need the approval of Town Administrator Mari Enoch.


In other matters, the Board appointed Board Secretary Sharon Fleck to the position of temporary procurement officer to be present at a bid opening on July 31, filling in for Town Administrator Enoch. The Board reappointed Ed Deming to the position of part-time police officer for FY20, as recommended by Police Chief Graham Frank.

There then followed a lengthy, meandering, but ultimately unresolved discussion regarding compensatory time for two Town Hall workers, Ms. Fleck and Treasurer Marilyn Fracasso. The rest of the Town's employees, according to Mr. Yohalem, are either covered by contract or are hourly workers. However, as Mr. Long was quick to point out, the Board is only seeking a temporary or "ad hoc solution" to the comp time problem, pending a thorough-going review and analysis of the Town's personnel policies by an outside human

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resources consultant. The current policy is mute on the subject comp time.

Mr. Yohalem kicked things off by suggesting Town Hall employees be required to fill out formal time sheets, showing, among other things, time-of-day in and time-of-day out. But that was quickly shot down by Selectman White, who, it should be pointed out, is also the Town Accountant and therefore subject to personnel policy changes. Mr. Yohalem then suggested comp time be limited to fifty percent of a worker's expected weekly work hours, and giving him or her thirty days in which to use it. But that apparently didn't sit well with Mr. Long, who felt there would be situations calling for greater amounts of comp time, and that comp time and the ability to use it should be discretionary.

Mr. Yohalem kicked things off by suggesting Town Hall employees be required to fill out formal time sheets, showing, among other things, time-of-day in and time-of-day out.

The discussion seesawed back and forth for another forty-five minutes between allowing unlimited comp time and putting a cap on it, until finally Ms. White put an end to the discussion, saying, "It's worked before; it'll work again. I think we just let it go. Let's move on." Which the Board did.

The selectmen then spent half an hour correcting factual errors and omissions in the minutes from the Board's July 15 meeting, and then, because of the lateness of the hour, put off to a future meeting the vetting of the June 24 and July 1 minutes. As Mr. Yohalem put it, "I don't want to spend the next two hours doing this."

Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch said it was determined after consulting with Town Counsel that a special permit is not required for a sign in front of a private residence for a home real estate office, and that instead the Board could approve the sign at a regular selectmen's meeting. However, she recommended as a courtesy that abutters be notified in advance by mail with enough notice to attend the meeting.

Under administrative updates, Ms. Fleck reported the

Town received a bid of \$7,850 from Henry's Electric of Lee to upgrade the electrical service in Town Hall so it could handle air conditioning of the Town Hall offices. This was a request by Town Hall workers last spring, to improve working conditions there. However, the bid was much higher than the Board was expecting. "I guess we're just not going to have A/C until next year," said Ms. Fleck, who'd been tasked with the job of finding a contractor for the work.

August 8: With Chairman Yohalem joining by phone, the selectmen held a brief, last-minute meeting to review and sign an authorization resolution for a MassWorks grant application, the day before the application was due. While they were at it, they took up two minor matters that

had been added to the agenda for their approval, the hiring of a new Highway Department worker and the granting of a one-day wine and beer permit for the Fire Company for its annual pig roast dinner.

It was a year ago the Board applied for but was turned down for a MassWorks grant worth \$1 million for Route 57 repairs. This year, taking a different tack, **the Town is joining neighboring Sandisfield on a joint application for a \$2 million MassWorks grant to be shared equally between the towns for their combined Route 57 repairs.** With Mr. Yohalem participating by phone the Board unanimously voted to approve the resolution, which must be submitted with the grant application.

On the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Loring, the Board approved the hiring of Daniel Bonetti of East Canaan, Connecticut, as a laborer for the Highway Department. This is a newly created position approved by the voters at Annual Town Meeting. There were two other applicants. Mr. Bonetti, who has farming and estate caretaking experience, including eleven years working for New Marlborough's Ian Devine at Steepletop, will initially receive \$19 per hour plus benefits and begin

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work August 19. However, in addition to the normal three-month probationary period, his hiring, at Mr. Loring's request, is subject to his performance during the first snowstorm.

Finally, the Board approved a one-day wine and beer permit for the Fire Company for its annual pig roast dinner to be held at the firehouse August 17 from 4:00 to 11:00 p.m. The Board, as is customary, waived the \$50 permit fee because, in the words of Ms. White, "it's a Town organization doing a fundraising event."

And with that, the meeting was adjourned.

Peter Schuyten

August 12: With all three members of the Board present, Chairman Nat Yohalem began the meeting by stating he had a few things to say before addressing the agenda. First, he was contacted by Jeff Bye, Chairman of the Sandisfield Broadband Committee, who reached out to him to compliment Town Administrator Mari Enoch, stating she was extremely helpful assisting him with issues regarding their town broadband. Second, he expressed the Board's appreciation to Selectman Richard Long, Ms. Fleck, Thomas Loughlin, and Highway Superintendent Loring for their efforts in the submission of a \$2 million joint grant application with the Town of Sandisfield to the State for repairs to Route 57. Lastly, Mr. Yohalem offered condolences to Superintendent Chuck Loring, whose father recently passed away.

The Board then reviewed a letter sent by Rene Wood, Chairman of the Sheffield Board of Selectman, to Steve Bannon, Chairman of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District, regarding moving forward the discussion and pursuing expansions of educational opportunities for students in the Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills districts. The letter was approved by the Board, with several amendments, and Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck was asked to submit the letter to Mr.

Bannon once the members of the Board signed it.


The Board then moved on to consider who would sit on the new School Consolidation Committee. The Board agreed the person sitting on this committee should be a selectman, and Mr. Yohalem then made a motion to appoint Ms. White to represent New Marlborough and for Mr. Long to be the alternate. Ms. Enoch will notify the School Committee and the four other towns involved of the appointees.

The next item on the agenda dealt with the review and awarding of bids for the resurfacing of Norfolk Road and Route 183. Of the three bids submitted, the Board approved the lowest bid submitted by HMA of Mechanicville, New York in the amount of \$416,147. In another road-related matter, the Board voted to make the 1995 grader surplus property and then advertise it for sale now that the new grader has arrived. Mr. Long clarified that any proceeds from the sale would go directly into the Town's general fund.

The Board then addressed their outreach to put together a Human Resources Working Group, agreeing this group is not a committee required to hold public meetings but an advisory group which would make recommendations to the Board. After reviewing persons who expressed an interest in participating in this working group, the Board agreed that Steve Klein, representing the Finance Committee, Mr. Long representing the Board, Owen Wright representing Town employees, and Scott Walker as a representative of the general public would constitute this working group. The selectmen charged the group with getting back to the Board prior to December 1 with their recommendations regarding the criteria outlined in the motion approved on July 1.

Mr. Long distributed a proposal from HRS Consulting, which would advise the working group and the Board in these efforts in an amount agreed not to exceed

There then followed a lengthy, meandering, but ultimately unresolved discussion regarding compensatory time for two Town Hall workers



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\$9,999. Mr. Long stated Sandy Stapczynski, President of HRS, is available to come to New Marlborough for an interview at the September 9 Board meeting. Mr. Yohalem stated he would like to see the working group decide whether or not to use an outside company, and Ms. Enoch asked whether the Town should get other quotes, to which Mr. Long responded that yes, they should try to find appropriate companies. Ms. Enoch then stated that she would have to check to see if human resources services were exempt from the procurement rules. Mr. Long responded that, if the amount is less than the \$10,000 limit for a professional service, it does not need to go out for bid. Ms. White stated she felt an outside group could help the working committee, and Mr. Long proposed, and it was agreed by all Board members, that an agenda item would be added to the August 26 meeting requesting the Finance Committee approve taking funds from the Reserve Fund for an outside human resources consultant.

The Board then addressed the minutes from the meeting of June 24 for a long period of time, making extensive changes and corrections before approving the minutes as amended.

At this point, Kirt Mayland of Park Avenue Solar LLC addressed concerns the Board had previously expressed regarding the decommissioning bond for the solar field proposed for the former Hankey gravel bed off Mill River Southfield Road. Mr. Mayland submitted the addition of new language on the agreement that stated "the funds were only to be used for decommissioning the solar garden and the \$75,000 shall not be released to N&L Mill River Solar, LLC until a plan, timeline, and identification of contractors for such decommissioning have been submitted to Atlantic Specialty Insurance Company and approved by the Town of New Marlborough. The Board approved the rider and then returned to reviewing the minutes from

July 1 and July 29. After making corrections and changes the Board approved both sets of minutes as amended.

Ms. Fleck, who has been in charge of finding a company to upgrade the electrical box in Town Hall, stated she had spoken to Dan Litchfield, who said the job is too big for him and she will need to find another company.

Ms. White then provided updates she received from Police Chief Graham Frank regarding police efforts to curb speeding in town. Chief Frank

has instructed officers to increase patrols in Southfield and Mill River centers and to be less lenient. Officers have written 102 citations, not including verbal warnings, since the beginning of July for speeding and stop sign violations throughout the town. Complaints

about speeding and traffic violations have also been received for Route 57, Brewer Hill Road, Clayton Mill River Road, and Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road, to name a few. Officers have also been added for the hours of 6:00 to 8:00 a.m. to address early morning speeding. Chief Frank went on to say that, though the police are busy with other calls, they will continue to concentrate addressing motor vehicle violations at these locations and throughout town.

The Town is joining neighboring Sandisfield on a joint application for a \$2 million MassWorks grant to be shared equally between the towns for their combined Route 57 repairs.



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Ms. White added that she had been notified by Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring that the area around Yield, Yield Ahead, Stop, and Slow Thickly Settled signs have been mowed for better visibility, and a speed sign has been installed in Southfield. The Highway Department has also ordered road-sign stencils (Yield, 25MPH, and STOP), which should arrive this week.

Mr. Long said that speeding issues on Route 57 may be helped through a grant called Complete Streets. Traffic calming steps can be added to the road, but an addition to our bylaws might be required before making an application to the state. Mr. Long stated he wasn't sure what the process is, but he'd like to see this addressed at a future meeting after he does more research.

Moving on to administrative duties, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Angus Kerr to be Planning Board secretary. The Board also discussed a letter received from the Attorney General requesting the Town approve an extension until October 26 for approval of the bylaws that were voted on at Town Meeting. The state officially has ninety days to approve a Town's bylaws; however the state can and is requesting an extension beyond ninety days. The Board made a motion to approve the extension and authorized the Town's attorney to sign and submit the letter.

Next was a Memorandum of Understanding addressed to the Town Administrator by the Great Barrington Police Department for the use of the Great Barrington police lockup and breath testing equipment for the year ending June 2020, at a rate of \$100 per individual held less than 12 hours. If a person is held for longer than twelve hours, New Marlborough police will take that person to Pittsfield for lockup. A motion was made and unanimously approved to authorize

the Town Administrator to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Great Barrington.

A contract with the state was presented which would allow for the replacement of the bridge over the Konkapot adjacent to Umpachene Falls. A motion was made and approved unanimously for Chairman Yohalem to sign the contract with the state Department of Transportation (DOT) and to authorize Ms. Enoch and Mr. Loring to also correspond with the DOT regarding this work. Ms. Enoch stated the total amount of the cost to replace the bridge, which is being covered by the state, is \$1.559 million.

A letter was read from Nanci Worthington, who had met with the Conservation Commission and wishes to be appointed to the Commission by the Board. The Board agreed to put this request on the next meeting's agenda. The Board also added to the next meeting's agenda an item regarding a contract bid for heavy equipment rental in conjunction with the Town of Sheffield which will run through June 30, 2020. Warrants were then signed by the Board and, lacking any public present to make comments, a motion to adjourn was made and approved at 8:08 p.m. □

Sandra Fusco Walker

Chief Frank has instructed officers to increase patrols in Southfield and Mill River centers and to be less lenient.

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VIEW FROM THE BOARD

By Nat Yohalem

Here's what's happening at your Town Hall. First, we just submitted to the state a joint \$2 million grant application with Sandisfield to repair almost five miles of Route 57. The two towns worked closely together, and we will learn whether the grant is awarded to us by the end of October. If we are successful, any money awarded will be divided equally between the two towns, and the work will be done next year. The joint application should not only improve our chances, compared to going it alone, but also, given the economy of scale, enable us to pave a larger section of the road. Keep your fingers crossed.

Second, the broadband project is proceeding pretty much on schedule. The make-ready work can be seen all over town as new poles go up and wires are repositioned. We believe residents will begin to receive service incrementally throughout next year.

Two solar projects are going up in Town. The PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) payment for the project on Knight Road site has been negotiated at \$45,000 per year for twenty years. The PILOT for the solar project across from the Highway Garage is being negotiated at this time. We are hoping that these payments will be enough to cover the cost of the annual payments to the state for the broadband project.

Finally, the five towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (New Marlborough, Monterey, Sheffield, Egremont, and Alford) have taken the lead in starting a discussion with Berkshire Hills Regional School District about consolidating the two districts. Our goal is to improve and expand student educational opportunities, add vocational and technical programs, and control rising costs. We are faced

with a declining school population, which limits educational opportunities, and this may be a way to offer a wider range of classes.

Our district towns have suggested that a committee be formed consisting of a representative from each town in both districts, the two school superintendents, and one school committee member from each district. If the proposal is accepted by Berkshire Hills, meetings would begin in September. The committee will discuss how consolidation can be accomplished, including the use of the buildings, the responsibility of existing debt repayment, and, perhaps, transportation. If the committee agrees to the basic principle of consolidation, the details will be left to the professionals.

To keep up to date, visit our new Town website, attend our Monday night meetings, or call any of the selectmen. (Our numbers are in the phone book.) Better yet, call Town Hall, speak to Town Administrator Mari Enoch, or Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck, and volunteer to serve on a Town committee. □

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Joan Clark; Mark Selander; Sheila Baird; Karen Stiles Brusie, in memory of Martha, Bud, and Cindy;
Crozer W. Martin; David & Jennifer Feldman; Deirdre MacGuire; Arlyn & Owen Hoberman; and Houry Schmeizl.

THE PLANNING BOARD: CANNABIS AND BEYOND

Planning Board Chairman Peter Tiso sat down with this reporter in mid-July for a free-ranging discussion on the Planning Board's expectations of itself over the next six to eight months. The clear goal that the Board has before it is to fashion protective bylaws that would cover the two uses of cannabis that are allowed in New Marlborough – medical marijuana and a research facility – and to be ready for consideration by the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2020. The Board's aim in writing these new bylaws is two-fold: First, to give definition and limits to the cultivation and/or dispensing of medical marijuana and to the unlikely event of a cannabis research lab wanting to set up shop in New Marlborough; and second, to construct these cannabis bylaws in a way that is general enough to be useful in setting parameters for a host of other commercial enterprises. Mr. Tiso says, "The Planning Board sees this as an opportunity to ask more important planning questions that we haven't really addressed, such as, what if, for instance, someone wanted to open up a large retail store, we would face many of the same problems we would have with a cannabis business. So, we need to answer those questions for more than just cannabis."

Mr. Tiso went on to say that protection of our water sources must be an important element of the cannabis-related bylaws, but, again, the need to safeguard New Marlborough's water goes beyond just cannabis enterprises, and therefore the Planning Board's aim should be to give "robust tools" to the Special Permit Granting Authority (the Board of Selectmen), to protect water usage in relation to a broader range of potential new commercial uses. The hope would be to write language that would empower the selectmen to require studies by specialists, at the expense of the applicants, "and to build that into the special permit granting process in general."

As a concluding thought to this interview, Mr. Tiso spoke of his desire, and that of his fellow board members, to see the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board sit down together, and ideally, with the Conservation Commission as well, to develop a unified approach to these planning questions.

Consistent with the tenor of Chairman Tiso's thoughts on the path the Planning Board will be following in the months to come, the August 8 regular meeting was almost entirely spent on developing the strategy for the

writing of the cannabis bylaws, with the broader commercial context in mind. The attending members, Peter Tiso, Mark Carson, and Daniel Doern, determined that a draft of the bylaws should be in shape by the December 11 meeting, with all necessary research for that draft being completed by the end of September.

Topics of investigation for the Board include: developing a list of existing commercial buildings of at least 5,000 square feet (to serve as a benchmark for establishing an appropriate limit to the size of a cannabis business); a broad formulation of restrictions on where a cannabis research facility and medical marijuana activities might occur (to help determine whether limiting such enterprises to one zone or the other is necessary); and to look into the existing special permitting of gravel beds and farms. The Planning Board members will accomplish this research through a series of "break-out sessions" with two-person crews, and the results will be reviewed at the subsequent regular meetings.

On the broader issue of strengthening the Special Permit Granting Authority, Mr. Tiso said he intends to check with the Board of Selectmen on the phrasing of a sub-section to the bylaw that would set up the requirement of outside consultants, and to inquire as to whether this should be a free-standing bylaw, not directly linked to cannabis usage. He also said that, while the protections written into the state's Cannabis Commission rules and regulations are largely adequate for New Marlborough, he does think the Town needs to add language on water quality and water usage. Mark Carson recommended including the Board of Health and the Conservation Commission in any discussion on water protection.

In wrapping up the meeting, Chairman Tiso said that he and the entire Planning Board are in full support of the need for controls on speeding in the villages, but acceded that the Planning Board is "not the lead" (agency) on this issue.

And Mr. Tiso closed by saying that, in light of the resignation at the end of July by Lon Combs, the Planning Board is once again short one member. He hopes someone from the community will step forward to take over that empty chair. Such a person would be appointed by the Board of Selectmen to fill out Mr. Combs term until the May 2020 elections. Interested parties should contact Mr. Tiso at (914) 645-3735. □

Larry Burke

THE PLANNING BOARD NEEDS YOU!

The New Marlborough Planning Board is seeking a community-minded person to fill a vacancy on the Board. Interested parties should contact Peter Tiso at (914) 645-3735.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 20: Members Dave Herrick and John Schreiber convened the meeting. Before addressing the formal agenda, the Commission recognized that the status of the project and the Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by White Engineering on behalf of Ian Devine needed clarification. The Commission agreed to request a project update from White Engineering. The public hearing for the filing was continued until next month's meeting.

Next, Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring addressed the Commission to amend the Order of Conditions issued under an NOI filed in 2014 for work to repair a culvert on Brewer Hill. Mr. Loring explained his proposed alternative construction for the repair, and assured the Commission that Mark Stinson of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

reviewed the alternative and deemed the solution "the best means practical." The Commission approved the amendment, pending submission of a revised description of the work area impacted.

Mr. Schreiber then reported that members Freddy Friedman and John Schreiber arranged a site visit with the New Marlborough Land Trust to review stream crossings at the New Marlboro Preserve.

Next the mail was reviewed. A field notice for non-compliance was received from DEP for an unlicensed dock on Lake Buel on Lakeside Road. And lastly, the minutes from last month's meeting were approved and the meeting adjourned. □

Martha Bryan

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Thanks to two generous donations to the New Marlborough Historical Society, *The History of New Marlborough*, written by Harry D. Sisson in 1937, has been digitized. Part I is a collection of New Marlborough histories written between 1829 and 1926. Part II covers the years 1885 to 1936 and is mostly written by Harry Sisson himself. There are histories of thirty-seven New Marlborough families, descriptions of the South Berkshire Institute, the Mill River General Store, the town's churches, post offices, notable town meetings, and much more.

The History is available now for download from the New Marlborough Public Library website, <https://www.newmarlboroughlibrary.org/>. Once on the website, click on links. It must be downloaded to view, as the file is too large for direct viewing. We recommend downloading at the library to take advantage of its high-speed internet connection. DSL, too, will work; it just takes longer.

Either way, the journey into the past of New Marlborough is fascinating. □

Claudette Callahan

Berkshire Pottery Tour

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BURRITT DAY AND THE ANNUAL FIRE COMPANY PIG ROAST

The weather cooperated, the vendors were prepared, and crowds of people came to the 45th Annual Elihu Burritt Day celebration on the village green on Saturday, August 17. The absence of two long-time components of the day – the 5K fun run and the antique car show – was offset by the addition of a very well-attended and popular pet parade that included dogs, of course, but also horses and donkeys in colorful costumes, a brown sheep, and several very cute kittens. The top prizes went to Albert the beagle for Best in Show and Best Behaved; Dandelion the gray donkey for Most Beautiful; and Beep Beep the horse for Best Overall Costume (as a unicorn). But of course, even though this is Massachusetts, and not California, everyone got a prize!

There was a great variety of crafts, antiques, books, live music, clowning, and, best of all, delicious food – all greatly enjoyed by the large number of patrons that streamed through the picturesque green throughout the day. The White Elephant sale far surpassed previous year's revenues

This year's Elihu Burritt Day award for community service was presented to *The New Marlborough 5 Village News* by Cultural Council Treasurer Richard Long and State Representative "Smitty" Pignatelli, who had interrupted his family vacation on Cape Cod to drive all the way to New Marlborough and then back again. A representation of the more than 150 people who have contributed content to the NM5VN over the last twenty years was on hand to accept the award.

continued on page 14



photos by Marjorie Shapiro



photos by Larry Burke and Louise Yohalem



Burritt Day, continued

Later in the day, friends and neighbors reconvened in Southfield to enjoy each other's company, eat some delicious homegrown pork from The Farm New Marlborough, dance to some great old rock n' roll standards, and hope for the winning raffle tickets at yet another highly successful Annual Fire Company Pig Roast. And then, to end a perfect summer day, the heavens opened up, providing some of nature's fireworks and a needed rain, and sending the few remaining partiers for cover. □

Larry Burke



photos by Larry Burke and Louise Yohalem

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THE REBIRTH OF A COMMUNITY CENTER

If we build it, they will come.

That, in essence, is the philosophy behind an ambitious new effort to renovate the Ladies Aid Hall next door to the Southfield Church. Robert Olsen, who has spearheaded the revitalization of the Southfield Church itself, is now turning his attention to the creation of a space for a more secular expression of community. "I want a place where people can create, gather, cook, listen to each other's stories," he says. "I want everyone to feel welcome and a part of the community."

The hall, where the women of Southfield would prepare suppers on a weekly basis in the mid-20th century, had fallen into disuse in recent decades. The appliances in the kitchen are now seriously outmoded or in need of repair. A section of the building's roof needs to be replaced and a buried oil tank unearthed.

Under the plan, developed by Clark & Green, Architects, a three-bay sink would replace the current single sink. A center island with its own hand-washing sink would be installed. The north wall would get two new windows, and the windows on the south wall would be moved to accommodate a new kitchen entryway. The old Garland commercial stove, whose pilot lights no longer function, would be replaced, as would the ancient refrigerator. The building's two restrooms would be repositioned and a new, on-demand hot water system installed.

Builder Michael White, who seamlessly extended the stage in the church so to make space for the piano that resides there, estimated the cost of the planned reno-



photo by Joe Poindexter

Robert Olsen, outside the Ladies Aid Hall



The Ladies Aid Hall

photo by Larry Burke

vation at \$290,000. The church board of directors is developing a fund-raising plan, but the initial strategy, according to treasurer David Hastings, "is to reach out to the community as much as possible." The income from a trust fund created by the sale of the one-time parsonage (cater-corner from the Southfield Store), currently about \$18,000 annually, is largely absorbed in maintenance and insurance.

Mr. Olsen admits to having been momentarily stunned when he was presented with the cost estimate of the renovation, but as his associates can attest, he is not one to be easily knocked off stride. "Either we step up and be good stewards or lose one more building," he says. "I just think it is the right thing to do." □

Joe Poindexter



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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL GROWERS AND PROVIDERS!

Just a reminder that the New Marlborough Farmers' Market is a very pleasant stop on your Sunday travels, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., continuing through September and on into fall as long as the weather allows. Please make every effort to support our local farmers, not to mention providers like the Mill River Store and Southfield Store. These folks are providing a fantastic service to our community, and completely deserve and need our support. □



illustration by Ann Getsinger



photos by Larry Burke

Top right, Ann Getsinger and Charlie Parton share stories together as Freddy Friedman prepares another of his delicious egg and sausage delights. Right, Jan Johnson of Mill River Farm shows off her perfectly ripened produce to the Macks and Sheila Baird.



music & more at the MEETING HOUSE

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“For lovers of world-class music and lively literary chat.”
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jazz classical ART Writers

August 24, 4:30pm
RHYTHM FUTURE QUARTET
“[B]reaks new ground for Gypsy jazz,” *The Boston Globe*. “Jason Anick is a star in the world of jazz violin,” *Downbeat* magazine. The Hot Club of Paris comes to New Marlborough.

September 7, 4:30pm
CAROL WINCENC FLUTE
LORA TCHEKORATOVA PIANO
A sneak preview of Carol’s Golden Anniversary Legacy Series. An ‘impeccable flute soloist,’ *The New York Times*, meets a pianist whose ‘energy swept the audience along with her,’ *The Washington Post*. 21st century contemporary premieres meet Bach, Messiaen, Debussy and more.

September 14, 4:30pm
EMMANUEL CEYSSON HARP
Principal harpist of the Metropolitan Opera. “Both his technique and his musicianship are virtually flawless,” *The Washington Post*. Repertoire to include Bach, Liszt, Debussy, Schumann, Rameau along with contemporary works.

September 21, 4:30pm
DAN TEPFER PIANO
GOLDBERG VARIATIONS / VARIATIONS
Jazz Variations on the Goldberg Variations. “This is no stunt but a fresh musical exploration,” *The New York Times*. “Tepfer... makes Bach a colleague in joy,” *JazzTimes*.

September 28, 4:30pm
BERKSHIRE CHILDREN’S CHORUS
Captivating local choirs with the sons and daughters of the community. 3 Choirs, from first to twelfth grades. Classics, folk, spirituals and contemporary choral ring through the Meeting House rafters.

October 5, 4:30pm
AUTHOR’S TALK:
GARRISON KEILLOR
There has been no sabbatical. Post-*A Prairie Home Companion*, Keillor has written a musical called *The Lives of the Cowboys*, a memoir entitled *So Far So Good*, even stacks of limericks. All this and more, in conversation with Simon Winchester.

Receptions with the artists after the performances. Art Gallery shows through October 6th

For tickets & information: www.newmarlborough.org / (413) 229-2785

MUSIC, GLOBAL AND LOCAL, AT THE MEETING HOUSE IN SEPTEMBER

The Music & More at the Meeting House series hits full stride in September with four intriguing Saturday afternoon programs featuring deeply talented performers from different points on the globe, including our own backyard.

On September 7, Carol Wincenc, recognized as one of the great flutists of the world, will be accompanied by prize-winning pianist Lora Tchekorotova in a program that draws from several centuries of European classical music. On September 14, French-born harpist Emmanuel Ceysson, who is principal harpist of New York's Metropolitan Opera, will offer a solo performance, also ranging from 18th century through contemporary works. And on September 21, another solo performer, Dan Tepfer will offer "Jazz and Classic Takes on Bach's Goldberg Variations," a program that has earned Mr. Tepfer high praise from music critics and music lovers alike.

And that brings us to the September 28 program, and to our own backyard, as the Berkshire Children's Chorus takes the Meeting House stage for the first time in ten years. The chorus, directed by New Marlborough resident Julie Bickford will present what Ms. Bickford terms "choral classics for the ages" – including a Bach piece (Bach being the unifying element of the entire September series), American folk songs, and at least one spiritual. The Berkshire Children's Chorus is actually composed of three separate choirs, all of which will be performing. The youngest group, with singers from grades 1 – 5, is the Junior Choir, and is directed by Karen Sovak. The Senior Choir (grades 6-9) and the group known as Coda (grades 10-



Photo by Larry Burke

Then: The Berkshire Children's Chorus last performed in the Meeting House in 2009, in celebration of New Marlborough's 250th anniversary.



Now: The Chorus's Senior Choir performing at its Spring Concert earlier this year. photo by Kari Giordino

12), are both directed by Ms. Bickford. Among the children performing, there are a number who call New Marlborough home – Honey and Peter Fields, Ivy Webster, Mary Shalaby, Indigo Travis – as well as our Town Administrator's children, Elizabeth and Philip Enoch.

That last performance, mentioned above, of the Berkshire Children's Chorus in the Meeting House was in June of 2009, as part of the 250th Anniversary celebration of New Marlborough's founding. The building was packed then, and here's hoping it is again on September 28. This performance, as all the others, begins at 4:30 p.m.. It is free to the public, and is followed by a post-performance reception in the Meeting House Gallery. □

Larry Burke



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THE ENDURANCE OF “WITCHCRAFT”

The year was 1651. A group of militiamen in Windsor, Connecticut, was in training when, during a rest period, a gun wielded by Thomas Allen was knocked against a tree and accidentally fired, killing fellow militiaman Henry Stiles. The incident went before a court, which found Allen negligent and charged him with “homicide by misadventure.” He was fined twenty pounds sterling and prohibited from bearing arms for one year. And that was the end of it.

Well, not quite. Three years later, the issue arose again. The basic facts of the shooting remained unchanged, but this time an additional character was called into the narrative, a townswoman named Lydia Gilbert. Ms. Gilbert, on trial for witchcraft, was found, among other things, to have been an agent in the “accidental” firing of the gun. Her motive: a quarrelsome relationship with Stiles, who had been a boarder in her house. Lydia Gilbert was convicted; a sentence of death by hanging was carried out a few days later. One final pronouncement on the matter was delivered by the local pastor. Townspeople, by spending too much time in the local alehouse and in strife with each other, had invited the devil into their community. They needed to mend their ways.

This bit of Colonial history was related by John Demos, a professor emeritus of history at Yale University, in a compelling program, August 2, on witchcraft in early New England, sponsored by the New Marlborough Historical Society. It helped illustrate Mr. Demos’s thesis that witchcraft is perceived as a malevolent force during times of social and economic unrest. In early



John Demos, as an audience gathers at the Meeting House for his talk on witchcraft
photo by Joe Poindexter

New England, such times frequently sprung from the cultural antagonism of farmers to the arrival of merchants, traders, and ship captains.

Today, said Mr. Demos, with similar disjunctures rife among elements of society, we no longer hang witches, but we create other forms of irrational censure as a stand-in for “witchcraft.” One example was the anti-Communist McCarthy witch-

hunt in the early 1950s; another, three decades ago, the convictions of workers at a day-care center workers in Pittsfield for sexual abuse of children. The convictions were all overturned, said Mr. Demos, and the allegations eventually were found to be totally groundless. The economic and political divide of today, said Mr. Demos, is also providing a rich environment for an updated form of witch hunt, scapegoating.

Near the end, Mr. Demos returned to an observation he had made at the beginning of his talk: He is an eleventh generation grandson of John Putnam (his full name is John Putnam Demos), a prosecutor during the Salem witch trials of 1692. He has written two highly regarded histories of witchcraft and views his work on this subject as “atonement” for the accident of his birth line. Eventually he realized he had overlooked a key element of the history: the suffering of the “witches” themselves. This epiphany, he said, brought forth tears.

The Historical Society’s final First Friday program of the season — on the early 20th century discovery of New Marlborough by wealthy second homeowners — will take place September 6. □

Joe Poindexter



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Upcoming: Events Calendar for September and October

September 6: Discovering Early 20th Century New Marlborough: How our town became a destination for weekenders and second homeowners, a First Friday program sponsored by the New Marlborough Historical Society, 7:30 p.m. at the Meeting House Gallery, with wine and cheese after the program, free and open to the public

September 7: Carol Wincenc, flute, and Lora Tchekorotova, piano, play Bach, Messiaen, and Debussy in a Music & More presentation at the Meeting House, 4:30 p.m., followed by a reception in the Meeting House Gallery; \$25, \$20 to members of the New Marlborough Village Association

September 14: Harpist Emmanuel Ceysson plays Rameau, Bach, Schumann, Debussy, and contemporary works, a Music & More concert at the Meeting House, 4:30 p.m., \$25, \$20 to members of the New Marlborough Village Association, followed by a reception in the Meeting House Gallery

September 21: Pianist Dan Tepfer switches in and out of jazz in his interpretation of J. S. Bach's supremely contrapuntal Goldberg Variations, Music & More's Harold Lewin Memorial Concert at the Meeting House, 4:30 p.m., \$25, \$20 to members of the New Marlborough Village Association, followed by a reception in the Meeting House Gallery

September 28: Berkshire Children's Choir, local girls and boys under the direction of Karen Sovak and Julie Bickford present classics, folk, spiritual, and contemporary songs in full-throated harmony, a Music & More concert free and open to the public, 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House

October 5: Garrison Keillor brings his prairie philosophy to the Meeting House in the season's final Music & More program, in conversation with award-winning author Simon Winchester, 4:30 p.m., \$25, \$20 to members of the New Marlborough Village Association, followed by a reception in the Meeting House Gallery

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NEIGHBORS



Maggies-list, a Google group established eleven years ago by **Debra Herman**, has gradually grown and this spring surpassed 600 members. Its purpose is to promote communication about issues affecting New Marlborough, and the exchange of neighborly information. For example, in the past two years there has been lively discussion about whether or how the legalization of cannabis businesses should be implemented in town. At the other end of the spectrum, there are postings for missing pets or recommendations for local tradesmen.

Debra curates the list, reviewing all posts before they are emailed to the members. She makes sure that the issue is relevant to New Marlborough, and that civility is maintained. Some issues evoke strong opinions, but personal attacks or insulting language, while very rare, are not permitted. In such cases, Debra works with the person who is posting to moderate the language. In no way does she function as a censor.

Moderating the list requires attention several times a day, 365 days a year, to ensure that all posts are processed in a timely fashion. Debra reports that this is not as time-consuming as it sounds, and that it's part of her daily routine. Nevertheless, as time goes by, she would like to establish a plan for succession in case she becomes ill or otherwise unable to continue curating the list. This means finding someone to learn the process, and willing to commit to its continuation. Not an easy search!

To join Maggies-list, prospective members should send an email to Debra at debra@dtrain.com, simply stating their connection to New Marlborough, and she will add them to the list. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com



photo by Larry Burke

Debra Herman and Izzy



LAND TRUST NEWS

The New Marlborough Land Trust beat the August heat! In the shade of the forest at the Goodnow Preserve, twenty-five trail volunteers over the course of three gatherings cleared a new 2.8 mile loop connecting the trailhead at the base of Collins Hill to the Lower Carroll Mill and then back again. We raked, cut, clipped, moved stones, and ate watermelon. We could not have picked a better team and are grateful for the dedication to completing the loop and to having fun doing it.

There is something for everyone on the new trail. Inside tip: the water in the Konkapot down at the mill is very refreshing! The trail is ready for you to explore. Next up is to blaze the new route with yellow 3-inch disc trail markers.

On August 3 Michael Gaige, a student of Tom Wessels, renowned author of *Reading the Forested Landscape*, captivated an audience of thirty or more, describing the history, lore, and unique habitat of wolf trees in the New England landscape. A gifted teacher, Michael shared his extensive research with informative slides and then treated a smaller group to his observations along the loop at the New Marlboro Preserve. Michael enlivened the woods with his knowledge of trees and highlighted the history of our town in signs embedded in the forested landscape.

Hope you take a break and enjoy a walk in the woods...before we know it, the snow will be flying. □

Martha Bryan



photo by Martha Bryan

Volunteer trail blazers at the new Goodnow Preserve

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

In last month's report, we overlooked **Don Beauchamp's** sending some excellent photos of **bobolinks** that were nesting in the fields of the Goodnow Preserve, at the base of Collins Hill. "Here's some bobolink suiters waiting in line for their turn to become fathers." Asked how he was able to get so close to these colorful, very active males, Don said, "I just stood in the field and let the bobos fly around me 'til they settled down, and then I walked toward them. The females just kept moving and hiding in grass. I didn't find any nests."



photo by Don Beauchamp

Two male bobolinks in the tall grass of Goodnow Preserve



photos by Don Beauchamp

Above, A meadowhawk dragonfly and below, a paddle-tailed damer

More recently, in mid-August, Don has seen, closer to home in Clayton, "two little deer, eating apples under the trees, one of which is ten feet from the house. The spring and summer birds are gone, and the fall birds are slowly arriving.

There are lots of **monarch butterflies** and **dragonflies.**" In the absence of his feathered friends, Don has turned his attention and his lens toward several of the extraordinary insects in the order *Odonta* – dragonflies, as you can see on this page.

Driving over East Hill Road on the last day of July, **Diane Barth** had to come to a stop as a female **sandhill crane** busied herself, somewhat frantically, shepherding two gangly chicks to the safety of the wetlands near the entrance to the Windemere development – yet another clear sign of the sandhills' expanding settlement of New Marlborough!



photo by Diane Barth

Sandhill Crane keeping a protective eye out

Bear sightings have been plentiful all over town in August. **Joe and Holly Poindexter** have seen a mother and two cubs enjoying the fruits of the apple tree in their backyard on East Hill Road. **Larry Burke's** attention was drawn to a particular telephone pole on his driveway

– what appears to have become a scratching post for our ursine neighbors. Several people have spotted a bear standing upright on the edge of the driveway this summer, most likely at this very spot. A large male has been seen twice in the third week of August shuffling through the Burke's yard, much to the



photo by Larry Burke

A bear-sized scratching post

consternation of their Labrador retriever. Fortunately, Lionel seems to know he should only bark and keep his distance! Toward evening on August 20, Larry heard, for the first time in more than a month, a pack of **coyotes** crooning to the rising moon.

One wildlife neighbor who is less than welcome at this time of year is the **tussock moth caterpillar**. Unlike the woolly bear caterpillar, which is fun to pick up and is completely harmless to the touch, the tussock moth caterpillar, when handled, can cause a painful rash, much like the reaction we get from a dose of stinging nettles. So, as a public service warning, keep these black and white bristly little creatures at more than arm's length! □



photo by Larry Burke

Look, don't touch, the tussock moth caterpillar!

Compiled by Larry Burke. Send your wildlife sightings to him at lburke2@me.com

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- July 1 9:00 a.m. Speed trailer deployed at the head of Clayton Mill River Road as it enters Mill River.
- 8:15 p.m. In response to a resident, check Brewer Hill Road for joyriders on dirt bikes.
- 10:46 p.m. Alert the Highway Department to a tree blocking Canaan Southfield Road near Foley Hill Road.
- July 2 2:05 p.m. A caller complains of a speeder on Clayton Mill River Road.
- 11:15 p.m. A caller is assured that the bear she has seen outside her Pine Street residence is in no way an unusual visitor in and around New Marlborough.
- July 5 12:01 a.m. A Stratford Road resident reports a power outage.
- 7:37 p.m. A driver stopped on Adsit Crosby Road is issued a criminal complaint for driving with a suspended license.
- July 6 10:39 a.m. Connecticut State Police are alerted when a driver on Canaan Southfield Road avoids a stop for speeding by fleeing across the state line.
- July 8 9:08 a.m. A caller reports hearing a gunshot near her Hadsell Street residence.
- 1:39 p.m. A caller reports multiple gunshots at a property neighboring his North Road residence.
- 3:29 p.m. The Department investigates the theft of jewelry from a Mill River Great Barrington Road home.
- July 12 11:34 a.m. A truck driver reports that he has driven over and disconnected a telephone wire leading to a Brewer Hill Road residence.
- 6:45 p.m. An officer dispatches a critically injured porcupine hit by a car on County Road.
- July 13 1:29 p.m. A resident complains of overflow parking from Southfield Store patrons partially blocking East Hill Road.
- July 15 3:59 p.m. A caller from Umpachene Falls Park reports that a visitor is intoxicated and harassing others at the park.
- 5:39 p.m. A Norfolk Road resident reports a suspicious SUV parked adjacent to his property.
- 6:05 p.m. Following up on a report of gunshots, an officer determines that a Brewer Hill Road resident was target shooting on his own property.
- July 18 12:10 p.m. A caller reports a pickup truck driving erratically on County Road.
- 8:35 p.m. A fallen tree takes down wires on East Hill Road.
- 9:11 p.m. An officer assists a North Road resident who has locked himself out of his car.
- 9:58 p.m. A Stratford Road resident inquires when her power will be restored.
- July 19 10:42 p.m. A caller reports a large black cow loose on Hartsville Mill River Road near Caulkins Cross Road.
- July 21 8:34 a.m. The Highway Department is called to remove large tree limb down on Hartsville Mill River Road.
- July 22 7:56 p.m. A caller reports two cows loose on Arroyo Way.
- July 24 2:24 p.m. A Mill River Great Barrington Road resident requests assistance with an injured woodchuck.
- 6:59 p.m. The Department connects the New Marlborough Southfield Road owner of a lost dog with the Norfolk Road resident who has found it.
- July 25 8:36 a.m. A caller reports that her dog has dragged what are apparently the innards of an animal from woods bordering the Konkapot River in Hartsville village.
- July 27 2:18 p.m. A visitor smoking marijuana in Umpachene Falls Park is asked to leave.
- July 28 3:06 p.m. A Clayton resident complains of a neighbor's car parked in his yard.
- July 30 7:27 p.m. A caller asks that the Department inform the animal control officer of a porcupine in a tree on her Mill River Great Barrington Road property.
- July 31 7:45 a.m. A Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road resident, reporting her concerns about a male circling her house and taking photos of the house and mailbox and those of her neighbors, requests that the Department institute surveillance of her property.

- 6:21 p.m. Wires down and an electrical outage reported on Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road.
- 9:02 p.m. An officer, with the assistance of a passer-by, replaces the wheel of a ve-

hicle disabled on New Marlborough Southfield Road.

In July, there were 108 motor vehicle stops for speeding, failure to heed a stop sign, expired registration, and other offenses.

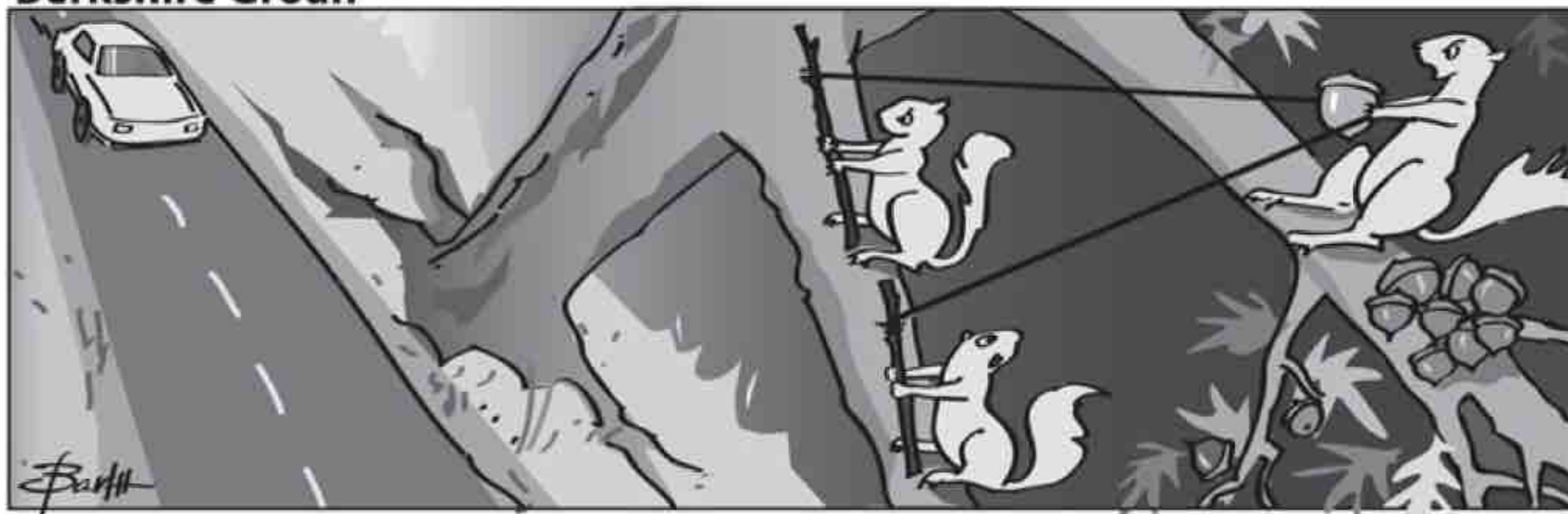
Graham Frank, Chief of Police

FIRE AND RESCUE

- | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|---|---------|------------|---|
| July 2 | 9:36 p.m. | Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call | July 17 | 7:04 a.m. | Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call |
| July 3 | 1:02 a.m. | Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call | July 19 | 9:36 a.m. | Norfolk Road Fire Alarm |
| July 3 | 5:02 p.m. | Idle Hour Road Lost Person | July 19 | 5:20 a.m. | Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call |
| July 4 | 10:47 a.m. | Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call | July 23 | 1:58 a.m. | Peter Menaker Road Fire Alarm |
| July 4 | 1:02 p.m. | Canaan Southfield Road MVA | July 23 | 5:04 p.m. | Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call |
| July 5 | 4:29 p.m. | Main Road Medical Call | July 24 | 10:32 a.m. | North Road Medical Call |
| July 6 | 5:43 a.m. | Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call | July 24 | 10:57 a.m. | Norfolk Road Medical Call |
| July 6 | 11:25 p.m. | Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call | July 25 | 8:40 a.m. | Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call |
| July 9 | 4:28 p.m. | Hartsville Mill River Road CO Alarm | July 27 | 7:42 p.m. | Foley Hill Road Fire Investigation |
| July 13 | 11:44 a.m. | Standby for Southfield Fire Investigation | July 29 | 6:02 p.m. | Stone Manor Drive Medical Call |
| July 14 | 1:10 p.m. | Standby for Alford Structure Fire | July 30 | 7:51 a.m. | Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call |
| July 15 | 1:33 p.m. | East Hill Road Medical Call | July 30 | 10:25 a.m. | Canaan Southfield Road Fire Alarm |
| July 16 | 9:36 a.m. | East Hill Road Medical Call | | | |

Fire Company President David Smith

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THE SCHOOL REPORT

A New Look for the Middle School

On opening day of school this year, two years of planning for a re-designed middle school program at Mount Everett will become a reality. Sixth graders will now join with seventh and eighth graders. The work that administrators and teachers have put into this complex change over these last two years has come to fruition over the summer months, as the teachers involved in the new formulation have met to finalize the details of how they will work together.

In a recent interview, Mount Everett Principal Jesse Carpenter and Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development Peter Dufresne expressed their excitement about this transitional year. One of the key new components of the program will be the provision of time each day for the teacher teams, consisting of the core academic teachers in English, mathematics, science, and social studies, to meet to plan interdisciplinary units and share information about students. This allows the team to address the adolescents' social and emotional roller coaster as they move through puberty and try to establish an identity for themselves. Through integrated and engaging projects, teachers can help students manage the new, higher intellectual expectations. Since all of the core academic subjects meet every morning, the team can choose on occasion to suspend the usual schedule to devote the whole morning to a collaborative project where children work in groups on an interdisciplinary challenge or go on a field trip.

The core academic faculty for the sixth grade includes two veteran teachers from the Undermountain sixth grade team (Michael Naventi teaching science and Tony Bleau teaching math), and two new teachers (Julie Barros and Peter Bys). Ms. Barros, a past member of the Mount



Photo by Jane Burke

Orientation for new SBRSD staff was held on August 22. The whole administrative leadership team was there to welcome a diverse and enthusiastic group. Back row, left to right, Sandi Hubbard, director of student services; Christine McEvoy, 8th grade English; Vincent Szymanski, secondary school adjustment counselor, Peter Bys, 6th grade social studies; Elyse Mercier, learning behavior and special education; Tanya Michaud, high school biology; Carla Whiteside, 5th grade classroom teacher; Beth Regulbuto, superintendent. Front row, left to right, Jesse Carpenter, principal of Mount Everett High School; Julie Barros, 6th grade English teacher; Amy Lyn, assistant principal of elementary schools; Charles Miller, principal of elementary schools; Darcy Stall, elementary school art teacher; Peter Dufresne, director of curriculum, instruction, and professional development.

Everett middle school team, is returning after eleven years of teaching sixth grade English in Lenox. Mr. Bys, an Albany resident, will be teaching social studies. He is well-prepared for interdisciplinary studies since he has also taught science. The team has been working together with Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Dufresne, and key members of the middle school staff to build the new program.

In the afternoons, sixth graders will explore foreign language two days a week, and band or chorus three times per week. They will also have daily physical education for half the year and nine week immersions into visual art and independent projects the other half.

There are some additions to the eighth grade as well: Christine McEvoy will be teaching English. She graduated from Lee High School, received a degree in English from Framingham State, taught in Florida, and has returned to settle in Lenox. Also, Elyse Mercier of New Marlborough will be the new learning behavior and special education teacher for students in grades eight through ten. She did her student teaching at Southern Berkshire Regional Schools and was employed at Monument Mountain High School before taking time off with her young children. □

Jane Burke



A•C•R•E•S

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This month we are celebrating those beautiful warm days and cooler nights that make September so special with a recipe provided by Michele Shalaby.

Michele moved to New Marlborough in 2010, and fell so in love with the neighborly, civic-minded community of New Marlborough that she served as a member of the Board of Selectmen until May 2019. The quiet pace of living in New Marlborough allows Michele to spend “slow” time with family and friends, and to pay closer attention to all their cooking talents. Michele’s family did not have a strong culinary tradition, but she now enjoys getting to show off her own cooking skills to her appreciative family when they visit from Chicago and Indiana.

These pretzel buns are a big hit with both kids and adults and are best served fresh with local hotdogs or sausages at your end-of-summer barbie. □

Fiona Kerr

Pretzel Buns

Ingredients:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup milk | 2 grated garlic cloves |
| 1/2 cup water | 3 cups all-purpose flour |
| 1/4 cup brown sugar | 1 cup bread flour |
| 2 Tbsp honey | 1/2 cup baking soda |
| 1 pkg active dry yeast | Coarse sea salt |
| 2 Tbsp unsalted butter | |

Directions:

- In a saucepan, heat milk, water, sugar and honey to 105-110°F. Put in mixer bowl and sprinkle in yeast, set aside until the yeast blooms
- In a separate saucepan, melt butter and cook garlic over medium heat, until fragrant - 2-3 minutes
- Combine flours and add to mixer bowl with blooming yeast, then add butter and garlic
- Mix on medium speed until the dough is elastic and pulling from sides - 5-7 minutes. Turn onto floured surface, cut into 8 equal pieces
- Roll pieces into balls and put on parchment. Cover with towel and rest in warm place 12-15 minutes
- On floured surface roll balls into 7-inch logs then return to parchment, covered, for 30 minutes
- Preheat oven to 425°F; place 2 racks, high and low. Boil 5 cups water, then add the baking soda.
- Boil the rested dough logs for 30 seconds on each side, return to parchment, sprinkle with salt and cut shallow diagonal slits across the top of each roll
- Bake 10-13 minutes, rotating racks 1/2 way through.
- Enjoy!

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A Dangerous Man, by Robert Crais
The Ghost Clause, by Howard Norman
Turn of the Key, by Ruth Ware
Bitterroots, by C. J. Box
The Porpoise, by Mark Haddon
The Most Fun We Ever Had, by Claire Lombardo
Knife, by Jo Nesbo
Golden Hour, by Beatriz Williams
City of Girls, by Elizabeth Gilbert

Adult Nonfiction

Everyday Dorie: The Way I Cook, by Dorie Greenspan
My Beloved World, by Sonia Sotomayor
Small Fry: a Memoir, by Lisa Brennan-Jobs
Carving Out a Living on the Land: Lessons in Resourcefulness and Craft from an Unusual Christmas Tree Farm, by Emmet Van Driesche
My Own Words, by Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Children's Fiction

Get Me Out of this Book: Rules & Tools for Being Brave, by Kalli Dakos
Bear Came Along, by Richard T. Morrisv
White Rose, by Kip Wilson
Blue Witch, by Alane Adams
The Wild Robot Escapes, by Peter Brown

Children's Nonfiction

Seeds Move, by Robin Page
STEM Lab: 25 Super-Cool Projects: Build, Invent, Create, Discover, by Jack Challoner
Summer Green to Autumn Gold: Uncovering Leaves' Hidden Colors, by Mia Posada

Books on CD

The Summer Guests, by Alice Monroe
Lethal White, by Robert Galbraith
My Own Words, by Ruth Bader Ginsburg
City of Girls, by Elizabeth Gilbert
Chances Are..., by Richard Russo

DVDs

<i>A Dog's Way Home</i>	<i>Poms</i>
<i>Aftermath</i>	<i>Tolkien</i>
<i>Amazing Grace</i>	<i>Ugly Dolls</i>
<i>The Growing Season</i>	<i>The White Crow</i>
<i>Heart Guy Season 1-3</i>	

We're Going Back To School



Library Hours

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

AUTUMN MEETINGS OF SATURDAY SCIENCE

Children ages six to twelve are invited to come to the New Marlborough Library in Mill River on Saturday mornings, September 28 and October 26, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. They will be given opportunities to explore science and engineering at their own pace with STEM educator Jane Burke. Curious children will investigate various questions through hands-on experiments. These sessions are free, thanks to a generous grant from the New Marlborough Cultural Council. Pre-registration is required to reserve a space for each session.

Attend one or both.

Please email Jane Burke at janesburke@gmail.com or 413-229-3321.

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Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

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

Board of Assessors: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

Building Inspector: Monday 5:00 - 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 - 11:30 a.m.

Southfield (413) 229-8476

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

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

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

Tax Collector: Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. until Labor Day

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

Dog and Animal Control Officer: New Marlborough Police Department 229-8161

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

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Library: 229-6668

Transfer Station Hours:

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

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

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

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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.

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New Marlborough Highway Department

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Hours:

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We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

Larry Burke, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;

Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Barbara Lowman,

David Lowman, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten,

Barry Shapiro, Sandra Fusco-Walker

Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger,

Angus Kerr, Fiona Kerr, Mary Richie Smith, Tara White,

and Michele Shalaby. Index: Donna Weaver

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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The next issue will be dated October 2019.

All copy must be submitted no later than September 17.

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

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