



New Marlborough 5 Village News

VOL XX
NO 8
October 2019

Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE

Fire & Rescue Veteran Neil Crawford Calls In a Final '10-8'

By Larry Burke

Neil Crawford received a fine salute and a rocking chair at this year's Firemen's Spring Dance back in April – signaling a well-earned retirement – but it actually wasn't until September that he completed his final shift as an Emergency Medical Technician with New Marlborough Fire & Rescue. So, after a career of volunteer service to our community that spans forty-eight years, Neil may finally have time to test-drive that rocker.

Neil arrived in New Marlborough in 1957 at the age of 5, already with a feather in his cap – having appeared as a child model in advertisements in *Life*, *Look*, and *Time* magazines. His father, a graphic artist, and mother decided that life in Westport, Connecticut, was becoming too suburban for their taste, and so they found a home here, first on the Canaan Southfield Road and, later on, in New Marlborough Village. Neil's father had joined the New Marlborough Fire Company, and that may have had some influence on Neil's decision to join at the age of 19, shortly after graduation from Mount Everett High School.

Recalling his growing-up years here, Neil has warm memories of his experiences as a student at New Marlborough Central School, and particularly of two teachers: Dorothea Burnett, who surmised that Neil's learning difficulty was simply his need for glasses; and Jesse O'Hara, who instilled in Neil a love of reading. Neil also holds positive memories of his time at Mount Everett, of his athletic accomplishments in gymnastics and track, and of teachers who had a continuing positive influence on his life – Barbara Rhoades, Al Trocchi, and Bob Cote.

Beyond the scholastic memories, though, Neil has plenty of stories of rascality during his years in New Marlborough Village, especially with twins John and Dick (later to become Sanjiban) Sellew. Neil says that, at the time, there were only six kids living along the stretch of Route 57 as it passes through the village – Neil and his brother Lindsey, the Sellew boys, and Ken and David Guartha. So, when mischief occurred, the older folks pretty much knew the likely culprits. Not to reveal too much of the incriminating details in case there are still outstanding warrants, but slingshots figure in!

In his early twenties, Neil discovered a wider world – going to North Adams Community College (now Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts) and also spending a year in an ashram in New Lebanon, New York, with thoughts of becoming a monk in the Advaita Vedanta school of Hinduism.

Finding the monastic life more, or less, than he had bargained for, Neil returned



Neil Crawford next to one of the many ambulances he has operated over the years

photo by Larry Burke

INSIDE:

A Toast to the Postmaster	3
Board of Selectmen	4
View From the Board	8
Planning Board	8
Tastes of New Marlborough	10
Broadband Update	13
Steeplejack.....	13
Historical Society News.....	14
Land Trust.....	15
Recipe of the Month.....	16
Upcoming	17
Neighbors.....	18
Wildlife Neighbors.....	21
The Log	22
The School Report	24
Library.....	26

Neil Crawford, continued

to New Marlborough in the mid-70's and settled into "grown-up" life, taking on carpentry as his trade, becoming a husband and a father, and eventually re-establishing himself as a volunteer firefighter. In the early 1980's, shortly after the founding of the New Marlborough First Responders, he joined that group as well, and this turned out to be an important new focus, and eventually a career-changer, for him. In 1986, Neil was one of the prime movers in the creation of the New Marlborough Volunteer Emergency Services Fund, which dynamically improved the resources of the Fire Company and First Responders, leading to the purchase of the Town's first ambulance and to the eventual construction of the new firehouse. Through the '80's and '90's, he served stints as president of both the First Responders and the ESF, and also as a captain and medical training officer once the fire and medical organizations merged into what is now New Marlborough Fire & Rescue.

In 1991, Neil became an EMT and soon joined the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad (SBVAS) as well, and eventually served as president of that organization, too. Now, as he retires from New Marlborough Fire & Rescue, he plans to continue pulling shifts with SBVAS, a group that he regards as "the best bunch of medics in the county." Looking back on his many years with NMF&R, he says, "What floated my boat was the people I worked with." He has nothing but praise for the present crop of New Marlborough's EMTs, and thinks that Maureen Krejci is an extraordinary leader of the group.

Asked to predict what the future of emergency medical response might be for New Marlborough, Neil is quite aware of the push to consolidate medics in South Berkshire County, given the limited manpower resources, but he thinks that ultimately it will be up to the people of New Marlborough, "to step up to make our town what we want it to be." If we desire to keep our own ambulance service, then that might mean individuals coming forward to join the organization, and also the Town committing to an investment in salaries for a

paid, on-duty team of paramedics.

An appreciation of Neil Crawford's commitment to his longtime hometown is not complete without the amazing fact that, for the past two years, he has lived in North Hinsdale, New York, but has nevertheless given up two nights a week to be on call with NMF&R, sleeping on an air mattress in the Southfield firehouse. That could be the definition of above and beyond.

Retirement from New Marlborough Fire & Rescue, according to Neil, doesn't mean slowing down, but rather an opportunity to do more. Since 2014, he has been an employee of Fairview Hospital, working primarily with Dr. George Veinoglou, overseeing the maintenance of surgical instruments in that practice as a certified member of the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates. When time allows, he is working his way through his bucket list, which includes nature photography, birding, sailing, and exploration of Civil War battlefields, all with his partner Sandy Whiteman. One other activity, which he is close to completing, is a "source to sea" kayaking journey of the Housatonic River – just one leg left! Oh, and then there are his three grandchildren. It seems likely that, with all he's got going on, Neil's time in that rocking chair is still a long way off. □

LEISURE POOLS

DESIGN • CONSTRUCTION • SERVICE

Pools • Spas • Saunas

789 So. Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Tel: (413) 528 • 1765
Fax: (413) 528 • 3039

www.leisurepools.net

THE MEETING HOUSE



Two VENUE SPACES available:

Auditorium (Sanctuary) and downstairs Gallery

**Weddings, Memorial Services, Concerts,
Social Events, Meetings, Exhibits**

Reasonable rates

contact@newmarlborough.org

or 413.229.2785

A TOAST TO THE POSTMASTER

Pam Gillette Is Retiring after Twenty-two Years Service

By Barbara Lowman

Starting a month ago, box holders at the Mill River Post Office who had forgotten to bring their key had, bowing to Postal Service protocol, to produce a piece of ID to get their mail. That's because Pamela Gillette was no longer there. On August 30, she retired from twenty-two years service with the United States Postal Service. Pam knew everyone in town and a face was all she needed for proof of identity. "You'd be amazed at the number of reasons people give for not having their key," she said. But no matter how bizarre the excuse, they got their mail with a nod of understanding.

Pam grew up in Great Barrington, but moved to Southfield in 1973 with her late husband, Jim. Their two daughters, Kim and Amy, were raised there. Her first job outside the home was at the Southfield Store in the early 1980s, where she quickly became a mainstay, both as a community member and a great employee. She began with the Postal Service as a part-time driver on a rural mail route between the Southfield Post Office and the Connecticut state line; she later handled the longer route delivering to New Marlborough mailboxes from the Great Barrington Post Office. Combined with her store experience, she had come in regular contact with a large slice of the town's residents.

Through the Great Barrington Post Office, she learned of an opening for a Postmaster Relief (PMR) position in the Ashley Falls Post Office. She was hired, and her



Pam Gillette on her last day at the Mill River post office

photo by Larry Burke

PMR responsibilities were later expanded to the post offices in West Stockbridge, Southfield, and Mill River.

She was touched by the appreciation of her customers as they contemplated her retirement. And concerned about the transition to a new employee, she explained that asking for IDs was the result of stricter security measures the Postal Service had recently put in place and counseled her customers

not to resent the request. "You've been getting your mail here for years, but the new clerk doesn't know you, and has to ask," she explained to them. What visitors to the post office see as personal attention to their needs and those of their children, Pam sees as "simply doing my job." That's classic Pam: deflecting the praise and attention.

In 2018, Pam received an award from the New Marlborough Land Trust as an "unsung hero" for her welcoming presence in the post office and her caring about the community and the people in it. She recounted her acute discomfort in receiving the award and the praise that went with it — apparently without seeing how appropriate it was that her many quiet contributions to the community's life be recognized.

Pam will be missed, but she's not going anywhere. In fact, her retirement offers the opportunity to return to the creative sewing that she has enjoyed for decades. Her imaginative dolls, ornaments, and stuffed animals have not been available at local craft shows for years, because Pam didn't have time to make them. But in anticipation of her retirement, she has scheduled four shows for the coming months, starting with the Harvest Festival at the Berkshire Botanical Garden on Columbus Day weekend. Next summer she hopes to participate in the New Marlborough Farmers Market and finally return to Elihu Burritt Day after many years' absence. The post office has lost Pam. New Marlborough has not. □



WEBSTER

design landscape horticulture

413-229-8124 websterlandscapes.com Sheffield, MA

Town Business Is Your Business BOARD OF SELECTMEN



August 26: An agenda that ran the gamut from a front-lawn sign to a contract worth thousands of dollars, filling a session of nearly two hours despite the brisk management of Chairman Nat Yohalem, illustrated the growing complexity of town government in the state of Massachusetts.

First up, the sign. In response to a request in July from Daniel Alden to post a home-office real estate sign at the edge of his Hartsville Mill River Road property, the Board sent a notice to abutters. Two couples, Jennifer and Hal Crine and Barbara Morrison and Richard Coker, attended the meeting to express their opposition to the encroachment of commerce on a residential area. Mr. Alden, however, in respect to their opinion on the matter, had already withdrawn his application, so the issue was moot.

Next, Planning Board Chairman Peter Tiso came forward to explain that, as it considered new bylaws, the Planning Board was finding that specific abilities given to the special permit process might be generally applicable. At present, these must be added, one by one, to each new bylaw. For example Mr. Tiso cited the hiring of outside consultants for technical review, which is currently specified only in the bylaw governing special permits for large-scale solar installations. He suggested that such abilities be added to the special permit review process generally, making them available no matter which category of bylaw was being reviewed. The Board saw the efficacy of such a bylaw and asked Mr. Tiso to further articulate it.

With Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring joining the discussion, the Board extended for a year its roadside mowing contract with F. B. Budge Land Services — at the current rate of \$80 an hour. Mr. Loring then discussed his nascent efforts to join the state's Municipal

Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program. MVP encourages Massachusetts towns to plan “for climate change resiliency” by helping fund vulnerability assessment. One example of vulnerability: dirt roads, which can be damaged by climate-driven heavy rains. To be eligible for funding, a town must be certified as an MVP community. According to Mr. Loring, **New Marlborough, while seeking certification, is in discussions with Sheffield and Sandisfield to present regional grant applications.** The Board voted to commit to an application to pursue MVP certification.

Next up, another state program, this one to promote roadways compatible with pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The program, known as Complete Streets, helps fund such efforts as installing a sidewalk to the local school, designating bike lanes, and putting up cautionary signage. Selectman Richard Long recommended that the Town begin the process of applying for qualification, which, among other things, will require that a person designated by the Town attend a four-hour Complete Streets class.

The Board moved on to paperwork regarding two solar projects in town, one off Knight Road and the other opposite the Highway Department garage on Mill River Southfield Road. In both cases, action was postponed to a later meeting. Cap Verte Energie, the French parent company of the Knight Road project, had failed to specify a performance guarantee in its agreement, and Park Avenue Solar had failed to meet a three-week deadline in responding to the Board's latest Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) proposal. At the moment, Park Avenue's offer is 23 percent below the Town's PILOT target. **If a PILOT agreement remains out of reach, the Town would assess Park Avenue with a property tax annually,** but the Board accepted Mr. Yohalem's

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



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

suggestion to wait until the next meeting, September 9, before pressuring Park Avenue further.

Mr. Long then described the work of the Human Resources Committee, on which he sits. The Committee will first collect information on current work practices among Town employees. It will then seek out and hire a consultant to assist in developing a so-called Best Practices program. Mr. Long asked that \$10,000 be released from the Reserve Fund to pay consulting fees, and Mr. Yohalem directed Administrative Secretary Sharon Flack to alert the Finance Committee to this request.

With this, the heavy lifting on the agenda was completed, and the Board moved on to a number of house-keeping items. **Nanci Worthington, who had expressed an interest in joining the Planning Board, was endorsed to fill the vacancy of the retiring Lon Combs until June 20, 2020.** It voted to accept a request from Tax Collector Gina Campbell that her summer working hours — Monday 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. — be made permanent. This will result in the same twenty-hour work week, but condensed to three days rather than four. Mr. Yohalem agreed on the condition that if taxpayers complained, Ms. Campbell's work week would revert to the old schedule.

Each selectman, using a fine-tipped Sharpie miraculously produced from a far corner of the Town Hall office, signed large translucent plastic sheets showing right-of-way plans for four bridge projects in town, those on Lumbert Cross, Canaan Southfield, Campbell Falls, and Norfolk Roads. They approved, with minor revisions, the minutes of the meetings of August 8 and 12. They reviewed a letter from Tracy and Andrew Zdziarski regarding their concerns about the removal of trees on the border of their property and Lee Cemetery in Southfield village. The couple wrote that

they planned to survey the line and perhaps request that the Town restore arboreal screening between the two properties.

Under the rubric of selectman updates, Tara White reported on a gathering of representatives of the five towns traversed by Route 57 — Granville, Tolland, Sandisfield, New Marlborough, and Monterey — with Massachusetts Department of Transportation personnel, plus State Representative Smitty Pignatelli and an aide to State Senator Adam Hinds. "They heard us," said Ms. White, regarding the need for repair to Route 57. The group plans to reconvene in the third week of September. She also attended a school district consolidation meeting and reported that "everybody is on board to start it."

Mr. Long said that an initiative to investigate the potential for affordable housing in New Marlborough has commenced and will pursue the matter in future discussions.

Finally, a question from Mr. Yohalem, reading from the mail, as to whether there were any candidates for a mental health symposium to be held in Alaska was waved off with amused chuckles, and the meeting came to a close.

Joe Poindexter

September 9: With all three members of the Board present, Chairman Nat Yohalem postponed the review of minutes and asked Richard Long for an update of his interview with Sandy Stapczynski, a prospective human resources consultant. However, Ms. Stapczynski, Mr. Long reported, had withdrawn her name for consideration, because, with recently signed contracts by two large companies, her firm would be unable to devote sufficient time to the human resource consultancy needs of New Marlborough.

After explaining that he was seeking assistance in establishing a human resources systems infrastructure

One example of vulnerability: dirt roads, which can be damaged by climate-driven heavy rains.

Kenzie Fields
 licensed realtor in MA
 413 854 4404
 coll/text

FAIRGROUND REAL ESTATE

631 South Main Street
 Great Barrington 01230
 kenzie.fields@gmail.com
 www.fairgroundrealestate.com

CURTIS INSURANCE AGENCY

Office: 860 • 824 • 7327
 Res: 413 • 229 • 2966

Paul Koneazny
 Certified Insurance Counselor

Serving Mass. and Conn.
For 60 years

49 MAIN ST. • P.O. BOX 748
 CANAAN, CT 06018

— not addressing specific employee issues — Mr. Long reported that he had contacted three additional consultants. One, referred by Ms. Stapczynski, declined to be considered; a second expressed interest but provided a fee estimate that was two-and-a-half times higher than that of Ms. Stapczynski's firm. **The third resource contacted by Mr. Long is the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, an affiliate of the University of Massachusetts, whose mission is to help towns and cities in the commonwealth establish good government practices.** Mr. Long said that its human resources office was very interested and may soon present a proposal.

The Board then granted a one-day wine and malt beverage license to Camp Wa Wa Segowea for September 28 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. but declined the camp's request to waive the \$50 fee. Mr. Yohalem explained that it is the Board's position that the fee should apply to all organizations, even non-profits such as Segowea, that are not affiliated with the Town. Next, the Board exercised its option to renew for a year the heavy equipment contract with Joe Wilkinson and Sons Excavating, a contract it holds jointly with the Town of Sheffield, which is now effective until November 30, 2020.

Next on the agenda were two contracts with companies proposing to erect solar panel projects in town. Mr. Yohalem reported that the Board is awaiting a response from Cap Vert Energie, the parent company of the firm proposing to install panels off Knight Road, to the Board's revisions to a performance guarantee contract. **The second agreement, a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) with Park Avenue Solar for an installation opposite the Highway Department garage in Mill River, remains in limbo with Park Avenue negotiating for a lower PILOT.** Mr. Yohalem said that he and Town Administrator Mari Enoch are reaching out to a

Complete Streets helps fund such efforts as installing a sidewalk to the local school, designating bike lanes, and putting up cautionary signage.

consultant to confirm that the Board's PILOT request is appropriate. Assuming the consultant's approval, Mr. Yohalem proposed that the Town present Park Avenue with a choice: either accept its requested PILOT or pay an annual property tax and wait for their response. The Board agreed to this strategy.

Moving on to the 2020 Census, Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck read through a list of requests from the U. S. Census Bureau to publicize the decennial count: among them mailings, posters, and a link on the Town website. The Board suggested Ms. Fleck review these requests with Ms. Enoch, after which the Board would consider them at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Long spoke about the actions he took last week for the Town to join Sheffield and Sandisfield in a regional Action Grant to the Massachusetts Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program. **Although New Marlborough is not yet designated as an MVP town, because the Action Grant is regional New Marlborough can be a participant in its second phase, the purpose of which is to analyze dirt roads.** If the grant is issued, New Marlborough can then apply to implement the study of the vulnerability



The winning combination for a great community hospital: all at Fairview!



Up-to-date medical care
Attentive professional staff
Commitment to a healthy community
High marks from our peers
Nearby when you need us



29 Lewis Ave., Great Barrington 413-854-9606 berkshirehealthsystems.org



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices

Barnbrook Realty

Mary White and her team
are here to help you sell

(413) 528-4423
BarnbrookRealty.com

of its dirt roads to climate change. It would be required to make an in-kind contribution, for example, hours that Town employees work helping on the study. **Mr. Long said a public meeting would be required to gather information on the needs and concerns of citizens, as well as those of the Fire, Emergency and Highway departments.** In response to Ms. White's request for clarification on in-kind contributions, Mr. Long said he would meet with officials in Sheffield and report back with more details.

Next, Ms. White said she would attend the September 12 Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) School Committee meeting, at which consolidation of SBRSD and Berkshire Hills Regional School District would be discussed. Mr. Long asked that the creation of an affordable housing committee be added to the agenda of the next Board meeting. He stated there are opportunities for the Town to help implement affordable housing but that if it did not establish guidelines, it would be vulnerable to a possibly negative impact of developers proceeding on their own. He said the Planning Board plans to address the issue of affordable housing, and he added that there are people in town who are interested in participating

on a committee. In response to Ms. White's concerns over the complexity of the issue, Mr. Long said that the state requires that the Town look into affordable housing. Mr. Yohalem asked that it be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

In answer to a question regarding access to computerized tax records when the tax collector is absent, Ms. Enoch said she had access to the tax collector's computer, but not, as yet, to the program containing tax records. The issue arose when a property owner was prevented from paying a tax when the tax collector was away. **Mr. Yohalem requested that the company that updated the program be asked to further design it so as to allow access by the town clerk.** In response to Ms. White's

observation that a problem would not have arisen except that the payment was late and incurring interest, Mr. Yohalem stated that the town clerk must be able to access tax information at all times.

After devoting twenty-five minutes to corrections, the Board approved the minutes of the meeting of August 26 and adjourned. □

Sandra Fusco Walker

THE PLANNING BOARD NEEDS YOU!

If you would like to help shape the future of New Marlborough, consider joining the Planning Board. Register your interest with Chairman Peter Tiso at petertiso@gmail.com

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

View from the Board LOOKS GOOD TO ME

It was Wednesday in mid-September. The sun was shining and not a cloud in the sky. At 12:30 p.m., I drove past the Mill River General Store on my way to Town Hall. The parking lot was full. Cars and trucks were parked on both sides of the road. Even the library parking lot was full. A lot of activity in the small village of Mill River.

As I pulled up to Town Hall, I noticed the staff was enjoying lunch outside at the picnic table. It was over 80 degrees, but the office was pleasantly cool. Mari, our town administrator, had great news. Our Community Development Block Grant application, filed with Sheffield and Otis, had been approved. The three towns were awarded over \$1,250,000 in total. Our portion (we did not yet know the amount) will be used for ADA improvements to Town Hall and to help qualified home owners make repairs. When the picnic table was free, Mari and I sat outside and planned the next Board agenda.

The day before, I stood in front of the library chatting

with Rob Scott. We watched as cars on the Mill River Great Barrington Road came to a stop at the library intersection. I guess the new road signs are working. I hear the Southfield signs are in place, too.

Tomorrow, the eight towns in the Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills Regional School Districts begin consolidation discussions. Hopes are high, and the representatives of the towns I have spoken to are optimistic.

When I got home, as I sat on my porch enjoying the quiet warmth, my thoughts turned to a Board meeting two weeks ago. A homeowner had filed an application for permission to put up a sign at the foot of his driveway for his local business. When two of his neighbors told him they did not want a commercial sign in their residential neighborhood, he voluntarily withdrew the application. His neighbors agreed that the withdrawal said a lot about his character; he listened and he cared.

New Marlborough – looks good to me! □

Nat Yohalem

THE PLANNING BOARD

September 11: All four members of the Planning Board – Chairman Peter Tiso, Mark Carson, Eric Schaefer, and Daniel Doern – were present at this bimonthly meeting. (The Board is still short one member following the resignation in July of Lon Combs.) After accepting the minutes of the August 28 meeting and checking through the mail, the Board resumed its primary task of zeroing in on the fashioning of bylaws for the allowed cannabis uses in New Marlborough, those being medical marijuana and research facilities.

Daniel Doern presented to his fellow members an extensive series of possible dimensional requirements for lot sizes for those uses, both in the rural and village zones, based on setbacks discussed at the August 28 meeting, as well as on whether the buildings would be one- or two-story structures, and on a 20,000 square-foot maximum gross building size. Mr. Doern's presentation of various possible configurations led to a discussion on setbacks in the rural zone. At the previous meeting, setbacks of 200 feet on all sides of a new structure, whether it be for medical research or the indoor cultivation of medical cannabis, had been favored. In light of Mr. Doern's presentation, though, the Board began to consider reducing the setbacks on all sides to 150 feet, with vegetative screening and/or buffering as a firm and detailed requirement. Chairman Tiso felt that such a setback would not be "unreasonably restrictive," and would be in line with existing setbacks

for special permitting of commercial enterprises. Eric Schaefer suggested employing the term, "area of disturbance," rather than the size of the building to determine the setbacks, as this would simplify questions of demarcation, not only of the new structure, but of parking areas as well.

Mark Carson voiced his concern that, with New Marlborough's topography, siting a new building on a minimum lot size of, say, five acres, could be problematic with large setbacks, and he proposed that side and rear setbacks should be reduced to 100 feet. This led to Mr. Tiso's suggestion that Mr. Carson's idea be adopted, but keeping the 150-foot front setback. All members appeared to favor the idea of encouraging the repurposing of existing buildings, and they felt that proposals to convert larger structures in town should be viewed favorably by the Special Permitting Authority (the Board of Selectmen), and such proposed uses should be reviewed on an individual basis.

Peter Tiso posed the question of whether medical marijuana dispensaries would be appropriate for the rural zone, or limited to the village zone. While a definitive answer was not reached, Eric Schaefer pointed out that a medical marijuana facility is more like a clinic than a store, and it might actually be less noticeable in a rural setting than in a village, with less parking issues, given the requirements of setbacks and screening.

Turning their attention to the village zone, the Board

reiterated its stance that outdoor cultivation of marijuana would not be allowed. In terms of indoor cultivation, research facilities, and medical marijuana dispensaries, Mr. Schaefer again emphasized the notion of “adaptive reuse” of existing buildings, and proposed a maximum footprint of 5,000 square feet for new construction, and urged that the architecture be in keeping with the look of the surrounding buildings. (By way of comparison, the Mill River General Store’s footprint is 3,177 square feet.) As for setbacks, Mr. Tiso suggested that it be important to be consistent with the fifty-foot setbacks that are now in effect for the village zone. Parking areas for new buildings would be on the side or in back of the structure.

This meeting’s discussion on the cannabis bylaws ended with Mr. Carson saying he was still working on setting a date to meet with members of the Board of Health, and Mr. Tiso saying that he will be getting in touch with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to see if the Board can expect any further help fine tuning the language of the proposed bylaws.

Daniel Doern then brought up the subject of affordable housing in New Marlborough. He said it has been brought to the attention of the Board of Selectmen that the Town is falling short of the state requirement that 10 percent of housing be affordable. The criteria for what constitutes affordability are many and complex, and the Board of Selectmen wants to form a committee to investigate the question and to try to show the state that the Town is not negligent. Mr. Doern would like to see at least one member of the Planning Board on that committee. He is concerned that under Massachusetts General Law, developers of affordable housing can override certain aspects of local zoning. That means that a builder could acquire property and put up whatever type of building he or she wants with little local control or oversight.

Furthermore, said Mr. Doern, he is aware that Construct, Inc, is looking for properties in New Marlborough, and he would want to work with that organization, rather than against it, to do what’s best for

low-income residents while at the same time protecting the property values of potential neighbors.

Peter Tiso wrapped up the meeting with a brief report on his conversation with Building Inspector Owen Wright, in which Mr. Wright asked for the Planning Board’s help in clarifying areas of the Town’s Protective Bylaw, specifically that pertaining to special permits, that remain unclear or need to be added to the list of commercial uses requiring special permits.

Mr. Tiso, in closing the meeting, let his fellow members know that unfortunately he will be leaving New Marlborough for an extended period of time, and, although he may return in the spring of 2020, that is uncertain, and he therefore feels he will need to resign. This is a blow to the Board and to the Town, as Peter Tiso has distinguished himself in the chairmanship, and his departure will leave yet another vacancy on the Planning Board. The Board urges New Marlborough residents concerned over the future of their town to inform the Board of Selectmen of their interest in serving. □

Larry Burke

linda@southcountypetsitting.com
southcountypetsitting.com

Bonded & Insured
Local References

Loving, Gentle,
Professional Care






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

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

413.248.6101

GEDNEY FARM

Serving Dinner
 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
 5-9 pm

Reservations:
 413-229-3131

gedneyfarm.com

WORTH A DETOUR

New Marlborough Takes Its Place on the Culinary Map

By Barry R. Shapiro

What do Paris, New York, San Francisco, and New Marlborough have in common?

Answer: Each is renowned as a dining destination.

Okay, we'll grant that the last mentioned locale does not have quite the international caché as the others. Within the Berkshires and surrounding counties, however, this small New England town is rapidly gaining a reputation as the place to go for the excellence and diversity of its cuisine.

A quiet, elegant, candlelit meal in a 1760 inn? Tacos and farm-to-table-inspired cuisine in an upbeat, vibrant setting? Classic American cooking using ingredients from the on-premises garden? Great coffee, soup and addictive pastries? Sandwiches, soup and lots of local flavor in an old-fashioned general store? They are all here. Given this cornucopia of choices, it's no surprise to hear out of towners, not to mention locals, describe terrific dining experiences in an off-the-beaten-track hamlet called New Marlborough.

How did this happen? In search of an answer, a reporter visited with the proprietors of the town's five eating establishments and asked each what they thought they were doing right.

than fifteen years.

"The original concept of the Inn," says Peter, "was brilliant. We have amazing ambiance with our candlelit rooms, but the key is the food. Without great food, we wouldn't be successful. We have been doing farm-to-table for decades and know that our customers want food that tastes great. They like when it's local — we are also thrilled to be able to buy much of our food from local farmers, some of whom are here in town. But if it doesn't taste great, they don't care about it being local. We're also happy to have attracted a lively bar scene, particularly a great lively group of regulars who fill the bar on Wednesday nights."

Standards are maintained by a staff that has been with the Old Inn, both in the kitchen and the front of the house, for years. "Our chef de cuisine, James Carr, and Gustavo Perez, who is also the chef at the Southfield Store, are both amazing and truly gifted," says Peter. Headwaiter and sommelier James Stahl has been working at the Old Inn for a decade.

Meredith Kennard has a slightly different take on the Inn's success. "It's a matter of sensitivity and attention to detail," she says. "We are close to our customers and get their feedback. New Marlborough residents are the backbone of our business, they support us year-round." The Old Inn returns the favor, contributing dishes and complete dinners to charitable causes throughout the year — including Mayfest, an event that supports Construct, and Berkshire Grown's Harvest and Maple Dinners.

The Southfield Store, which Peter and Meredith acquired in the spring of 2007, is managed by their son, Alex. "He's very dedicated to his work and crazy about coffee!" says Meredith. The establishment offers breakfast, lunch and dinner (seasonally) and also serves as their pastry kitchen.



photo by Barry Shapiro

Peter Platt

THE OLD INN ON THE GREEN AND THE SOUTHFIELD STORE

Chef Peter Platt and his wife, Meredith Kennard, co-owners of the Old Inn on the Green and the Southfield Store, are seated at the cozy bar in the rear of the Old Inn, enjoying a quiet moment in their typically hectic schedule, which has made their mini-empire a success for more



BILMAR
VETERINARY SERVICES

☎ 413-528-1180 ✉ Hello@BilmarVet.com 📍 776 Main Street
☎ 413-528-1763 🌐 BilmarVet.com Great Barrington, MA 01230

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

“We are open year-round, five to six days a week and when we’re open, we’re open, no matter how much snow may fall,” says Peter of the Old Inn. “Locals know that they can come in and find a warm fire, a friendly welcome and a great meal. We’re proud of that.”

photos by Barry Shapiro



Josh Irwin

CANTINA 229

Chef owner, Josh Irwin, looks up from his steaming cup of hot ginger, turmeric tea sweetened with a bit of local honey, and seems a bit surprised at how quickly time flies. “We just finished our third year, and we are thrilled with our success and our strong connection to New Marlborough,” says Josh. Seemingly from out of nowhere, the Cantina has become a “hot”

dinner spot (it is not open for breakfast or lunch), for which a reservation well in advance is advisable.

The formula, according to Josh, is all about basics: “It’s a combination of working hard and creating a culture for the staff that allows quality people to do their best work for me and themselves. Everyone who works here goes through rigorous training, and we keep tightening the ship and improving our standards of what’s acceptable.” It’s not all drudgery. The kitchen staff, for example, has a competition going as to who can slice a twenty-five-pound box of tomatoes the fastest. (At this writing, Josh admits, it’s Josh.)

Cantina 229 (the number is its address on Hartsville New Marlborough Road) does not advertise, and Josh credits the restaurant’s success to the residents of New Marlborough. “We are here, first and foremost, for New Marlborough, and I love to see New Marlborough in the restaurant. It also really bothers me if one of our regulars calls for a last-minute reservation and we’re fully booked. If that happens, we try to find a way to accommodate them.”

The space situation has been eased somewhat, at least in the warmer months, by a newly installed deck, but this presents a non-culinary challenge, the weather. “We study five different weather apps, and only when we’re sure the weather will be okay will we start filling reservations off our wait list. We’ve only gotten it wrong once.”

Like his colleagues at the Old Inn, Josh, and his co-owner and spouse, Rachel Irwin, believe in supporting local farms and giving back to the community. They buy produce from local farmers Tom Brazie and Jan Johnson, support Construct and Berkshire Grown, and provide cooking lessons for the New Marlborough Land Trust’s auction.

As if things are not already moving fast enough, Josh and Rachel have decided to expand their enterprise to a cocktail bar, called Moon Cloud, situated at the head of Railroad Street in Great Barrington. They are, however,

taking a little bit of New Marlborough with them: Accompanying the drinks, cheeses and pickled and fermented vegetables will be a charcuterie made from meats produced by Tom Brazie.



Peter Miscikoski and Mike Smith


GEDNEY FARM

As a restaurant, Gedney Farm is in a way the new kid on the block. A well established wedding venue for decades under Brad Wagstaff and Leslie Miller, Gedney began offering dinners to the public years ago. But when

they sold the business (while retaining ownership of the real estate) to long-time employees Mike Smith and Peter Miscikoski in January this year, it was still best known as a wedding caterer. The new owners are treating the restaurant as essentially a startup. “We hope that people understand that we have an excellent, full-service restaurant,” says Peter, who has been managing the restaurant and catered events for Gedney for the past six years, following a long tenure as a sommelier at top venues in New York City.

After Peter and Mike Smith, who has been at Gedney since 1990, took over management of all operations, their first task was to bring in a new chef. A brief search turned up Ryan McLaughlin, 37, a graduate of the French Culinary Institute and a chef in New York City and upstate New York restaurants. “I’m thrilled to be at Gedney,” says Ryan, a Saint Louis native, who he says has been working in restaurants since he was 15 and owned a restaurant, Daughters (“I actually have four daughters”) in Red Hook, New York.

Chef Ryan emphasizes a simple approach to the restaurant’s food. “We want the food to be approachable and accessible and let the flavors speak for themselves. We use food from our garden and have a very seasonal menu with bright colors and flavors. We purchase as much as possible from farms in New Marlborough and Berkshire



A•C•R•E•S

ALDEN COUNTRY REAL ESTATE SERVICES

DANIEL L. ALDEN, TRANSACTIONAL BROKER
413-335-9300

PO Box 132, Mill River, MA 01244
dan@berkshireacres.com berkshireacres.com

R E S I D E N T I A L • L A N D • C O M M E R C I A L

county, including Jan Johnson's and Tom Brazie's farms. In the summer, we use our outdoor Argentine grill, which doesn't use any gas or electricity and also has a wood fired oven. It's both fun and adds great flavor."

After hiring a chef, Peter and Mike turned their attention to the lower floor of the Normandy style barn and moved the dining room there from the floor above. "We closed for five months while we renovated the entire space, adding new lighting and walls with better insulation and a new bar," says Mike. "It's now a wonderful, inviting indoor space. We're really pleased with it. We welcome being a part of the scene in New Marlborough," he adds, "and we're proud of our entire staff, many of whom are local."

The restaurant is open Wednesday through Friday during wedding season, when the venue is booked most weekends. But then, likely starting in late October, it will be open on weekends as well. Special wine dinners, utilizing Peter's wine-industry contacts, are scheduled when possible.

As is the case with the Cantina and the Old Inn, Mike and Peter are committed to supporting the local community — "a fundamental responsibility," says Mike — and have contributed gift certificates and over-night stays to help raise funds for local organizations. An excellent cheese platter, gratis Gedney, is regularly served at receptions following Music & More concerts.

Next up for Peter and Mike: buying the Gedney Farm real estate. "That's our objective," says Mike.



photo by Barry Shapiro

Jessica Holcomb

THE MILL RIVER GENERAL STORE

Jessica Holcomb has not slowed down at all since she and husband Todd started operating the Mill River General Store in April 2017. She remains a whirlwind of activity, working behind the food counter to serve and prepare breakfast and lunch, working behind the cash register, and greeting virtually everyone who comes in by name.

Sitting at one of the small tables in the café section of the store, Jess pauses long enough to reflect on the strong connection between the fresh food she turns out and the community. "We are so proud to be able to feed people," says Jess, "and particularly locals. They are 100 percent the reason that the store is still here, and we are very grateful to them, more than I can put into words." Right on cue, a construction worker stops by the table and says, "Jess keeps us going, keeps us full. This place is a great service for locals and working folk." He then gushes over the pork Jess serves. "My father raises pigs," says Jess, "and we use the pork in the food we serve here. The pigs

are all super healthy and the result is a beautiful, clear meat with amazing taste." It's a two-way bargain: food scraps from the store go back out to local farms to feed their pigs.

"We serve breakfast and lunch and grab-and-go food," says Jess. It's all fresh, casual, simple home cooking. We prepare what we expect to sell each day and when it's gone, it's gone. While we gear the food and our pricing to the working class, we cut no corners. All of our food is fresh, and we avoid artificial preservatives. Also, we grow much of the produce that we use in the store, including tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. Our homemade tomato sauce is quite popular and goes great with our meatballs. During hunting season, we provide chili, meatloaf, shepherd's pie and the kind of warming meals that the hunters crave." Jess also credits her staff (Courtney Davis, Ellie Greer, and Lee Marchione) for the store's success. "We're all hands on, working as a team," she says.

Tourists who wander into the store often seem to feel as if they have walked through a time warp. After all, there aren't that many retail establishments selling everything from ammunition and worms to wine. "Visitors regularly tell me how much they enjoy the food and the experience of eating in such a quaint, New England store," says Jess. "They don't realize just how essential the store is to the daily life here."

The Mill River General Store is open 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. weekdays (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to noon Sundays), which makes for a long day. "But," says Jess, "if we're closed and I'm sweeping up and someone knocks on the door to ask for something, we always take care of them. It's just what we do."

Five different venues, five different dining experiences, but one common theme: not only devotion to what is fresh, local, and excellent but also a sense of their place in their own community. Their reputation may be spreading, but their allegiance, they say, is to New Marlborough. □

Heating Systems and Tank Installations Repairs and Services

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



License# 059667 MA

License# 392664 CT

413-229-2370

James Lane

Southfield, MA 01259

MOVING RIGHT ALONG

The recently formed Cable Advisory Committee has promised to keep residents informed of broadband progress being made by Charter/Spectrum. And as motorists negotiating around National Grid work crews can attest, make-ready for the installation of fiber-optic broadband cable is well underway. Crews have been inspecting utility poles and, where necessary, replacing them with taller poles capable of carrying extra wires. A National Grid crewman estimated that 200 poles would need to be replaced.

As of this writing, National Grid expects to complete its work by December 6. At that point, Verizon will commence an inspection of its wires, a process expected to take another two months. New Marlborough homeowners can take comfort in knowing they are not alone in this transformation of their infrastructure: more than twenty rural towns in Massachusetts are engaged in similar make-ready projects for the installation of fiber-



A taller utility pole will accommodate fiber optic cable.

photo by Michael Shocket

the coming year, possibly February, the Cable Advisory Committee will invite Charter/Spectrum to one of its meetings. Open to the public, the meeting will afford an opportunity for homeowners to learn of the full array of services to be offered and what they will cost.

For New Marlborough residents, robust broadband has been a long time coming, but we are getting nearer each month. □

Michael Shocket, Cable Advisory Committee

STEEPLEJACKING — THEN AND NOW

Celebrating its 225th anniversary, the Southfield Church is getting a facelift! Erected in 1794, and known as the South Parish Church, the original structure did not have a bell, steeple, chimney, or clock. By a vote, in 1829, a steeple and bell were added. According to James Cook, my great great grandfather, “the steeple was built on the ground and raised up through the box-like structure which supports it.”

The clock was added sometime in the early 1960’s. The wooden ball that had topped the steeple for 150 years was replaced when renovation of the steeple and bell tower was completed in 2001. A new weathervane and an Ichthys — an ancient Greek symbol of a fish used to proclaim an affiliation with or affinity for Christianity — was installed. The Ichthys was placed at the top on September 11, 2001 in memory of



Left, painting the steeple in 1926 required ropes, a hook, and nerves of steel. The modern paint job, right, employed two workers: one at the controls and the other tucked comfortably into the cab of a motorized lift. photo at right by Janice Boult



New Marlborough resident, Eva Klein, a long time church and choir member.

This summer the church steeple was repainted, a chore last done in 2009. I asked the painters why they were not painting the “old fashioned way,” and showed them pictures my great grandfather, Howard Augustus Cook, took July 31, 1926, during a period the steeplejack came to town. The current painters told me there is still a large hook at the top of the steeple, used by the 1926 steeplejack to secure a rope he tied around his waist while he painted.

Different times, different technologies. But kudos to all those who brave the heights to help our Southfield Church steeple soar. □

Janice Boult

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

On September 6, an overflow audience heard the final 2019 First Friday program of the New Marlborough Historical Society, as Hildy McCarthy, a great granddaughter of Hildreth Kennedy Bloodgood, wove a fascinating tale of the arrival of serious money in New Marlborough. Around the turn of the 20th century, four families, the Bloodgoods, the Willets, the Culvers, and the Hoyts, bought up vast expanses of New Marlborough land, totaling some 8,000 acres, for — what else — bird hunting. The land, according to Dr. McCarthy, became available as farmers abandoned the rocky hills of New Marlborough for the rich soil of Ohio and points west. The newcomers brought with them a love of animals, prize-winning cocker spaniels and hackney ponies, and the advent (some might call it the bane) of the second home owner.



Hildy McCarthy

Then, on September 21, the Historical Society closed the book on this year's public programs with a morning of headstone cleaning at the New Marlborough Village



photos by Joe Poindexter

Stone scrubbers, left to right, Rob Scott, Ann O'Connor, Robbi Hartt, John Schreiber, Bob Hartt, and Mary Ritchie Smith. Also present: Rosemary and Jon Masters

Cemetery. Volunteers tackled the lichen, mold, and mildew that has dulled the stones. Meanwhile, the Society has contracted with Blake Ferrara to reset tilted and fallen headstones and with John Field Tree Service to remove two leaning white pines. Progress is slow, but visitors to our town's oldest cemetery will be impressed with the gleam of marble that has been revealed thus far. □

Joe Poindexter

SCOTT

MacKENZIE
EXCAVATING

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

 **Sachs Reisman, Inc.** 

jewelry design & fabrication
 appraisers & diamond brokers
 buyers of gold, platinum,
 & bulk silver

25 Maple Avenue ~ Sheffield, MA.
 413-229-0050
 www.sachsreisman.com

Call today to join our family
 new customers welcome

KIMBALL
FUEL

FUEL OIL • PROPANE • BIO FUEL
 • SERVICE & INSTALLATION

LAWN MOWING & SNOW PLOWING

WINDOW WASHING
 CARPET CLEANING

GOEWEY

FURNACE PUFFBACKS
 FLOOD DAMAGE
 SMOKE DAMAGE

CLEANING & PAINTING
413-229-2787
 OFFICES REALTY
 TURN-OVERS

Residential & Commercial
 Fully Insured
 DECKS AND FLOOR
 REFINISHING

 ALL ASPECTS OF PAINTING



LAND TRUST NEWS



photos by Martha Bryan

Left, Tom Brazie explaining his next moves at the New Marlboro Preserve
Right, Ron Brecher ushering us all forward at the Goodnow Preserve

Experience fall right here in town with the Land Trust.

On Sunday, October 27, join us to celebrate fall and to honor our intrepid volunteers. Enjoy a picnic lunch prepared by Gedney Farm at the Goodnow Preserve, an apple pie contest, and special prizes gifted to our volunteers. We'll gather at 12:30 p.m. to party at the Goodnow Preserve after a morning of two volunteer activities: the Fall Road Cleanup starting at 10:00 a.m. from Town Hall; and a short stretch of trail building beginning a new path at Goodnow starting at 10:30 a.m. Further details will follow. Whether you partake in the morning's activities or not, everyone is invited to come help us celebrate. Save the date, October 27, 12:30 p.m. to enjoy a community party, our volunteers, and fall.

We are pleased to report that the new loop at the Goodnow Preserve has gotten rave reviews — from dogs, children, parents, joggers, new visitors to town, self-professed “old” men and women, and even from those who to date have feared a walk in the woods. Now that the trail is established, our job is to tread and tread often so that the route stays open and clear. Not a bad task to add to your weekly to-do list!

Many hands are behind the work of the Land Trust — including the hands of the two maestros pictured here: Ron Brecher, trail designer at the New Marlboro Preserve and the Goodnow Preserve; and farmer Tom Brazie, who works the pastures at the New Marlboro Preserve, restoring our soils while producing healthy meats for our tables. Our town has been enriched by the work of these two men and the Land Trust is grateful for these partnerships. Eat Tom's meat. Walk Ron's trails. Feed yourself at the table and on the trails in New Marlborough. We will all be better for it.

I recently asked Ron Brecher why he so enjoys trail building. His answer: “I love being in the woods. I hike these trails almost every day ...It is all thanks to the Boy Scouts. I was a Bronx kid, so I loved any chance to let loose...As I lay out a trail, I enjoy myself and follow what the woods give me; I let the woods point out the way to go. My trails are wandering, going around a tree rather than getting rid of a tree. On the Goodnow loop, I think

we only cut out just two saplings.... My trail design is about my experience in the woods. I like to wander so I laid out the trails that way. So far it seems others are finding my same pleasure. I just love giving something to the town. It will be here forever.”

And from Tom, you know the beat: It's “love, peace and chicken grease” (as he has proclaimed on Maggie's List).

The Land Trust is proud to be working with the New Marlborough community. □

Martha Bryan



Reiner White & Sons, Inc.
Remodel - Additions - New Construction

MA Lic #20390 CT Lic #4485
MA HIC #137599 CT HIC #578070

New Construction • Remodeling • Siding • Windows • Interior Finishes
Decks & Porches • Sunrooms • Kitchens & Bathrooms • Roofs

(413) 229-8450 | www.reinerwhiteandsons.com

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

The first time I made this dessert we were on a home exchange in Wisconsin. It was September, the leaves were turning, the weather that perfect autumn mix of sunny days and cool nights. The kids had been berry and apple picking for their first time and were asking for apple pie, but as I was cook, I wanted to make something that I could eat — I hate missing out on dessert. I found this gluten free pie on my favorite Australian recipe website (taste.com.au). We added a few berries to the apples and skipped the almonds — there was no Mill River General Store to duck into to replenish supplies. It turned out perfectly. I love a forgiving recipe, and no one complained that it was gluten free.

The pastry quickly became my “go-to” sweet pie base. This recipe is for a free form apple pie, but the pastry can easily be doubled and used to make a regular apple pie, blind baking (pre-baking) the base as you would with a traditional wheat flour pastry. □

Fiona Kerr

Free Form Apple Pie

Pastry:

- 1/3 cup pure icing sugar, sifted
- 1-1/2 cups gluten-free plain flour
- 1/4 lb + 1 Tablespoon butter, cubed, chilled
- 2-4 Tablespoons chilled water

Apple Pie:

- Gluten-free plain flour, for dusting
- 1 egg, separated
- 1/4 cup ground almonds (almond meal)
- 1 lb Granny Smith or Golden Delicious apples, peeled, cored, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons sugar (I prefer golden sugar, as it is finer)
- 1 tablespoon raw sugar

Directions:

- Make pastry: Place icing sugar, flour and butter into a food processor. Process until combined. Add 2-1/2 tablespoons of cold water. Process until pastry just starts to come together, adding more water if necessary.
- Turn pastry onto a lightly floured surface. Flatten into a disc. Wrap in parchment paper. Refrigerate for 15 minutes.
- Preheat oven to 375°F. Dust a large sheet of parchment paper with flour. Place pastry onto baking paper. Roll out to a 12” (diameter) circle. Transfer pastry (still on baking paper) to a large baking tray. Whisk egg yolk. Brush pastry with egg yolk, leaving a 2-inch border around edges. Sprinkle ground almonds over egg yolk. Arrange apple slices over pastry (leaving border free). Sprinkle with sugar.
- Fold pastry border in over apples. Lightly whisk egg white. Brush pastry edges with egg white. Sprinkle with raw sugar.
- Bake for 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 355°F. Bake for a further 15 minutes or until pastry is golden. Serve.

nm5vn.org

THE PLANNING BOARD NEEDS YOU!

If you would like to help shape the future of New Marlborough, consider joining the Planning Board. Register your interest with Chairman Peter Tiso at petertiso@gmail.com

Upcoming: Events Calendar for October

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

October 10: Flu shots, Town Hall, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.; no appointment necessary, but wear short sleeves; free to those insured by Medicare or MassHealth, \$30 to others, priceless to your health

October 19: Shawn Fields autographs *Monument Maker: Daniel Chester French and the Lincoln Memorial* by Linda Booth Sweeney, which he illustrated; 11:00 a.m. at the library

October 26: Halloween in New Marlborough, starts at 4:30 p.m. at the Goodnow Preserve (on Mill River Southfield Road near the intersection with Hadsell Street); a hayride, a bonfire, and maybe a very scary Deb O'Brien disguised as a witch

October 27: Land Trust Sunday, starting with the assembly of Fall Road Cleanup volunteers at Town Hall, 10:00 a.m., or, if you prefer, trail building within the Goodnow Preserve, meeting at the Goodnow Preserve trailhead at 10:30 a.m., and concluding with a picnic lunch, all welcome, volunteers or not, at the Goodnow Preserve

N. B. Town Clerk Kathy Chretien reminds New Marlborough voters that there are no local, state, or federal elections this year (nor in any odd-numbered year in Massachusetts)



**CERTIFIED
ORGANIC**
MEAT, EGGS
& PRODUCE

FARM STORE OPEN EVERY DAY

282 BREWER HILL ROAD
MILL RIVER, MA 01244

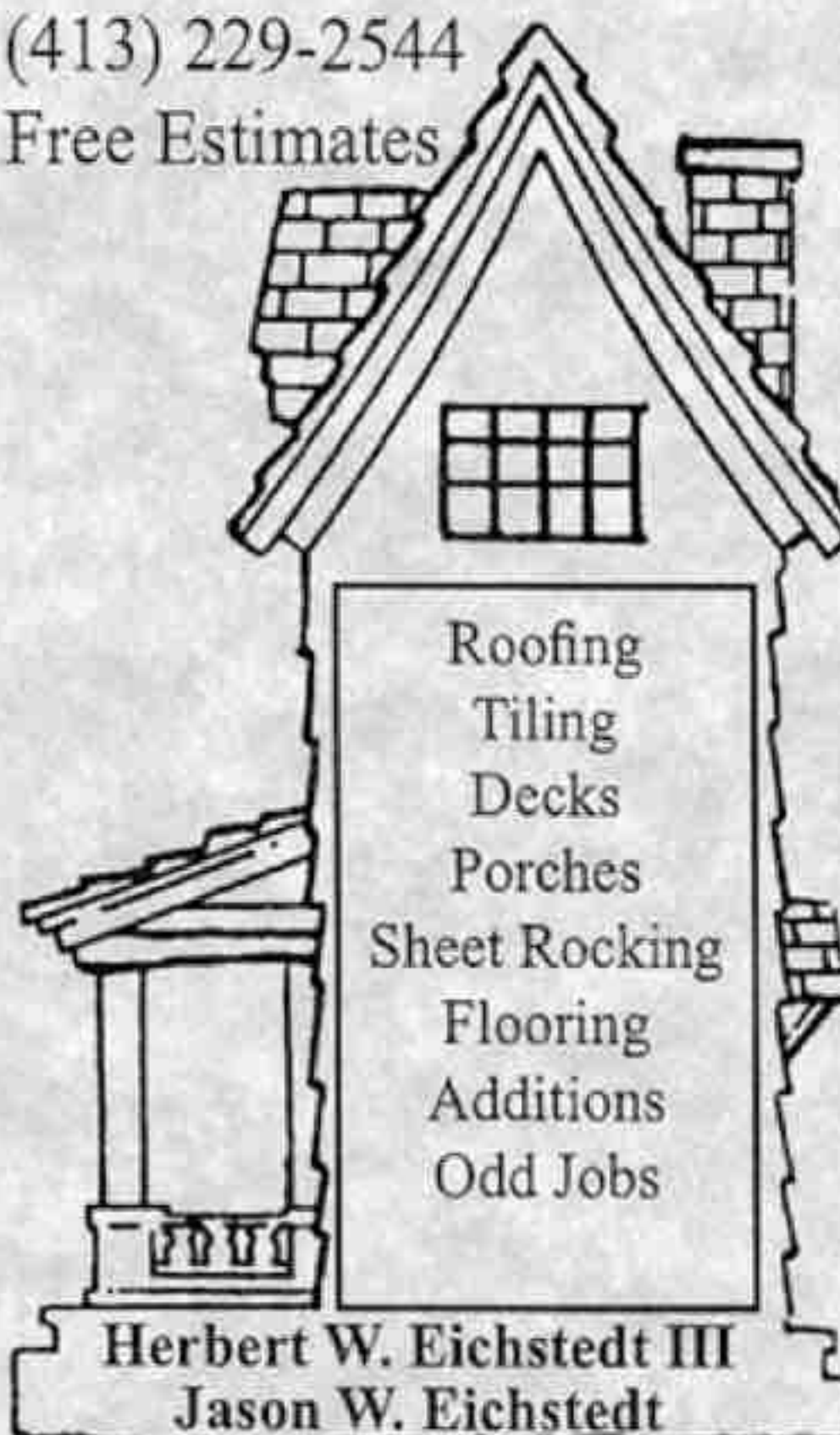
**MAHAIWE
& CHIROPRACTIC
HEALTH
SERVICES**

*Dr. Lawrence Bronstein
Chiropractor, Board Certified Nutritionist*

15 Mahaiwe Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

(413) 528-2948
www.DrBronstein.com

(413) 229-2544
Free Estimates



**Herbert W. Eichstedt III
Jason W. Eichstedt**

NEIGHBORS



Former New Marlborough residents **Marsha and Paul Harvey** celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on August 25 at their home in Ashley Falls. The home once belonged to Marsha's parents; it's where she grew up, and where she and Paul were married. Seventy to eighty family and friends joined the celebration during the day.

During their decades in New Marlborough, both Marsha and Paul made impressive contributions to the community. They were the prime movers in the establishment of the New Marlborough Volunteer First Responders, and stayed involved for many years. Paul was also in the Fire Department, and was chief for part of that time. He served as the Town's police officer. Marsha has been a mainstay of the New Marlborough Library, both as a trustee and an active member of the Friends of the Library. So in addition to honoring their fiftieth anniversary, we thank them for their years of service to New Marlborough.



photo by Larry Burke

Marsha and Paul Harvey on their 50th



photos by Janice Boults



Richard Hanna, left, completes repairs to the Baptist church steeple in Southfield, right.

Janice Stiles Boults offered this item: None of us will forget the devastating house fire in Southfield last spring, or the sight of the burned and blackened old Baptist Church next door that was damaged during the fire. Richard Hanna, a lifelong carpenter from Ormond, Florida, was asked by **Ellen Bove**, one of the owners of the church, if he would like to live in their home in Southfield for the summer and take on the enormous task of repairing the building. And so he did! What a delight it has been to get to know him and to visit the church to see the progress all summer. I was thrilled to climb up to the bell tower and ring the bell (dated 1850 from Troy, New York), and see all the carved and spray-

Painted initials! When I told Richard that we wanted to include him in the "Neighbors" section of our paper, I mentioned how amazing it is that he has single-handedly brought the church back. His response was, "Oh no, I didn't do it alone – I always had God working with me."



Newlyweds Michelle and Ed

Michelle Dawson and Ed Harvey, both of New Marlborough, were married on September 21 at Camp WaWa Segowea in Southfield, with the reception in the camp's lodge on Harmon Pond. Pastor Savage Frieze officiated.

Michelle graduated from Berkshire Community College with an associates' degree in health science, and is an EMT and a nurse. She currently is a nurse at the Hillcrest Educational Center. Ed received an associates' degree in culinary arts from Paul Smiths College.

He serves as the fire chief of Blandford, Massachusetts, and is captain of New Marlborough Fire and Rescue. Following a trip to Chincoteague Island, Virginia, they will continue to reside in New Marlborough and be active in community service.

MERCIER STONE

FINE STONE MASONRY

- BRICK OVEN
- FIREPLACE
- HARDSCAPE
- RESTORATION

508.560.7844
MERCIERSTONE.COM



John R. Dinan, Sr., a resident of Corashire Road, died September 6 at age 93. He graduated from New Marlborough High School and then enlisted in the U.S. Army and served during World War II as a combat engineer in Germany, Austria, and France. After returning to New Marlborough, he worked with the construction company that helped build Butternut Basin Ski Area. Later, as the owner with his wife, Nancy, of Corashire Antiques, he gained a reputation for meticulous restorations and custom-built tables and helped found the Berkshire County Antique Dealers Association. He is survived by a son, John R. Dinan, Jr., a daughter, Deborah D. Mielke, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Donations in memory of John may be made to Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation or New Marlborough Fire and Rescue via Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230.

John Sisson passed away on September 5 at his home in Mill River at the age of ninety-eight. He graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1939 and enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in 1942. During World War II he served as a B-17 bombardier, flying thirty-two missions over Germany, Hungary, Austria, and Yugoslavia. He recounted these experiences to a rapt, overflow audience at the New Marlborough Library last April. (A DVD of John's talk, *John Sisson's Recollections of Wartime*, is available for viewing or borrowing at the library.) John remained in the Air Force until his retirement in 1968 at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

John moved to the Sisson family home on the Konkapot River in the mid-1970s, and stayed there for the rest of his life. He researched the Sisson family history and catalogued a wealth of information over past generations. A leader in this community,

he was an active member and past president of the New Marlborough Historical Society. He identified many historical sites in town, and organized many small groups to visit and learn about these treasures.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 2, at 3:00 p.m., at Old Parish Church in Sheffield, where he was a prominent member for decades.

Claudette Callahan, a longtime member of the Historical Society, remembers John's contributions to the town: "When the members of the 1975 New Marlborough Bicentennial Committee and founders of the New Marlborough Historical Society heard that Lieutenant Colonel John D. Sisson, Sr. was retiring and returning to live in his home, Dam Site, in Mill River, they rejoiced. John Sisson became the dedicated and determined leader of the Historical Society for many years. He was always an excellent historical resource and an innovator of some very special ideas. Membership increased yearly and many interesting programs, such as the mill walks, were presented. Even during his final year, he hosted a wonderful World War II program at the library.

"However, his idea of a Crosby-Robbins Mill Restoration did not succeed. The Hayes Hill dam was completely washed away by the effects of Hurricane Irene in 2011. John later donated a millstone to the town, which was mounted and stands near the downstairs entrance to Town Hall.

"How fortunate we were to have such a vital person in our midst!"

Jon Swan, a founder and former editor of the *NM5VN*, currently lives in Yarmouth, Maine: "A notice posted – at the Mill River Store perhaps – in the mid 1970s drew me

to a meeting of the New Marlborough Historical Society in the basement of the Town Hall. The speaker was John Sisson; the topic was the lost village of East Indies. The turnout was small and generally white-haired or balding. I was encouraged to see that two of those who showed up were young men — Ed Harvey and Tom Dillon, who died of cancer in 2008.

"John had a dual mission that evening: he wanted to share information about the lost village, and he wanted us to keep the secret of the place to ourselves. It was a pioneer site of settlement that had largely sunk back into the landscape, except for the hand-dug mill race that led down from a dammed-up pond to turn the wheel of a vanished mill, which once upon a time had made cheese boxes. So John had a story to tell, and we were, in effect, charged to sit on it in order to protect the site. I



John Sisson in 2015

Photo by Larry Burke



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

John Sisson, continued

subsequently became an annual visitor to the area, and in due course my fascination with it grew as scholars came along to investigate the nearby, still-intact (but inadequately protected) Native American cairns built roughly in the shape of a beehive.

“John went on to explore and explain other historical sites, such as the Lower Carroll Mill with its impressive stone walls on the Konkapot River in Mill River. I recall his leading a group of us across the river to the site, which at the time was otherwise difficult to reach. John wasn’t a spring chicken then, but he was eager to reveal to a handful of people the hidden treasures of the town he loved and served. So, booted and sturdy, he planted himself firmly midstream and offered a hand to steady us as one by one we forded the river to marvel at another site that John had reclaimed for posterity.”

Colonel Courtney Turner shares his perspective as a retired military officer: “John D. Sisson (Lieutenant Colonel, USAF, Ret’d) left New Marlborough forevermore on September 5, 2019. All who knew him will agree he was one of the greatest of the ‘greatest generation.’

“I had the distinct honor and privilege to know him in several capacities. First, we were both retired officers from the United States military. This provided for endless good-natured ribbing between us as to who had served in the more superior service. John always pointed out that he wore a sky-blue uniform to signify Air Force ability to fly freely in the skies, while soldiers always wear green to hide and crawl on the ground. Of course, I always pointed out that those who were in the air were very visible targets. In my mind at least, neither of us ever won the debate.

“I also knew John as a distinguished member of Harold D. Rood American Legion Post 350. In that capacity, he served as Commander of Troops for many of the Memorial Day ceremonies held in Mill River. I am told that he initiated the poppy distribution to all veterans on that day – a wonderful gesture which continues to this day.

“Finally, I knew him as a brother Master Mason of Cincinnatus Lodge in Great Barrington. This is especially significant as Cincinnatus Lodge was originally chartered in New Marlborough by Paul Revere in 1795. John would often be the speaker of the evening with Masonic history of Berkshire County as a highlight. Incidentally, John had been a Master Mason for sixty-eight years; he started that membership during World War II.

“With John’s departure, New Marlborough is truly diminished.”

Paul Edelman, of Southfield, admired John’s self-reliance: “I knew John Sisson for nearly fifty years. His love of country, town, and family was very apparent once you got to know the colonel. Whenever possible he would always buy American and use local resources in his various projects. His many years with the Air Force and his thirty-two bombing flights during World War II gave him a true sense of what was important in life and what an individual was capable of doing. In his later years he would drive himself and his wife, Irma, back and forth to Florida for the winter months until around age 92. He mowed his own lawn until age 95, when his vision began to fail. He will be greatly missed by family, friends, and the town.”

Librarian Deb O’Brien had a unique friendship with John: “The New Marlborough Town Library was honored this summer, with a somewhat surprising and uncharacteristic decision by John Sisson to address our community in a public program. We townsfolk were grateful and surprised to be graced by his presentation. John sat in the center of the library surrounded by rapt listeners as he discussed his World War II bombing missions, the presentation enhanced by his collection of maps and other relevant documents. Not surprisingly, John’s program crowded the library, leaving standing room only! It was fascinating to observe the number of very young people in attendance among the diverse audience, all of whom were mesmerized listening to John’s larger-than-life unfolding of missions and sorties, war stories rendered all the more riveting as unvarnished truth related by a gentle hero.

“As the library director for the past twenty-five years, but a long-time New Marlborough resident, I had known John Sisson nearly forever. He was my ‘go-to’ source whenever stumped by local history questions, and I would tease him that he was on the library’s speed-dial. But it wasn’t until a few months ago that I was privileged to spend a significant amount of time with John.

“Over the years his eyesight had faded, and having been a voracious reader of all genres, John embraced the technology that permits those who are visually challenged to keep up with that love, be it literature, history, or so much more. I would go to his house, the family homestead on the dam, twice a week and download audio books to his iPad. You can tell a lot about people by what they read. John and I would chat about politics, New Marlborough history, or even just what a beautiful day it was. Occasionally on Sundays I would bring him a treat from the grocery store. John would most often scold me for spoiling him, claiming I was ‘gilding the lily;’ however, he never refused the offer!

“I will miss my regular visits with John, but am so thankful for having been able to spend time getting to know him better. New Marlborough has lost a trove of local knowledge and history. More importantly, we all have lost a wonderful, genuine, true-blue American hero.” □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On the first of September, East Hill Road resident **Joe Poindexter** wrote in to say that, glancing out his window, this is what he saw: “Raccoons v. toms: Yesterday, two minutes before this photo was taken, there were four **male turkeys** gathered at the base of the bird feeder. Then the **raccoons** marched in and took over.”



photo by Barry R. Shapiro

A very burly bobcat

Barry Shapiro, up on Hickey Hill Road, had an exciting find: “Marjorie and I installed an animal capture camera and within a day saw a visitor next to our home around 5:30 p.m. I’m no **bobcat** expert, but this looks pretty big to me.” Yes, it does!

Don Beauchamp, writes to say that, in Clayton, “One can tell fall is here – the **geese** are flying in formation and the corn is being cut. The sightings I’ve had include a late, immature **hummingbird** and a pair of immature **house wrens**. I have three small **deer** hanging around and eating dropped apples morning and night, and I’m still seeing **monarchs** in the fields. **Monarch caterpillars** are still around, and I came upon one sharing a leaf with a **grasshopper**.”



photo by Eric Callahan

A monarch chrysalis

In Hartsville, **Eric Callahan** is also seeing copious numbers of **monarchs** in all stages, including the one pictured here, just hours before it completed its metamorphosis. The soon-to-be butterfly’s wings are clearly visible through the transparent wall of the chrysalis.

On September 9, **Larry Burke** almost stepped on what he first thought was a brightly colored children’s toy lying in the grass beneath an apple tree. Bending down, he realized it was a caterpillar. . . and an enormous one at that! This creature turns out to be a **cecropia moth caterpillar**, which, over the course of the winter and spring, will transform itself into North America’s largest moth, with a wingspan of six inches or more. The apple leaf this particular caterpillar was clinging to turned out to be the last of its meals. Within the next twenty-four hours it set about spinning its large brown cocoon, a process that took over three days. With luck, we will be on hand when this spectacular moth emerges in late spring.



photo by Sara Kiesel

Strange but true – a caterpillar, sometimes known as a monkey slug

By far the oddest sighting of the month goes to **Sara Kiesel**, who, sitting on the porch of her home in Mill River on September 11, noticed something strange on the railing and took a photo of it. She called this reporter, saying that this object was “the weirdest caterpillar/mushroom thing,” what appeared to be some sort of caterpillar moving under a mushroom of some kind. Not having any idea what it was, I sent the photo to my favorite nature identification app – iNaturalist – and a day or so later received a positive ID. This bizarre looking creature is, in fact, a caterpillar, genus *Phobetron*, species *pithecium*, known variously as a **slug caterpillar** or “**monkey slug**,” which morphs into the not-very-prepossessing **hag moth**. A description of this the larva calls it “distinctive, with no close analogues, although it may be mistaken for the shed skin of a hairy spider or leaf debris. It has six pairs of curly projections, three long and three short from the flattened body, each densely covered with hairs.” It is a common sight, apparently, in orchards. Handling this insect – not that you would really want to – might lead to some skin irritation, though not as severe as the tussock moth caterpillar, which we made mention of last month. □



photo by Joe Poindexter

Raccoons rule the roost!



photos by Larry Burke



A cecropia caterpillar beside a dirty finger, for scale, and almost completed spinning its cocoon

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Aug. 2 1:00 p.m. A caller reports the loss of his iPhone at Umpachene Falls Park but then calls back at 3:44 p.m. to say that another visitor to the park has found the phone and returned it to him.
- Aug. 3 12:30 p.m. A Mill River Southfield Road resident, reporting incessant threats and harassment from an associate, is advised of his options.
- 1:29 p.m. A resident complains of speeders in Southfield village.
- Aug. 6 7:51 p.m. A Hartsville New Marlborough Road resident reports that a steer is loose on her neighbor's property.
- 10:22 p.m. An officer places flares around a vehicle, awaiting assistance from AAA, that has lost two wheels after hitting a pot hole on Norfolk Road.
- Aug. 7 9:23 a.m. A passing motorist alerts the department to a car that has driven off South Sandisfield Road and become wedged between two trees.
- 9:47 a.m. An officer requests a tow for a vehicle disabled on North Road after hitting a deer.
- 5:32 p.m. A driver on Mill River Great Barrington Road, arrested for speeding and operating under the influence with an open container of an alcoholic beverage in his vehicle, is taken into custody.
- 6:23 p.m. A tree down on wires ignites in fire on Keyes Hill Road.
- 6:37 p.m. Wires are down and blocking Canaan Southfield Road.
- 11:07 p.m. Tree down and blocking Old County Road.
- Aug. 8 8:22 a.m. A caller reports having collided with an animal while approaching her home on Hartsville New Marlborough Road the previous evening.
- Aug. 9 12:32 p.m. A caller reports a vehicle being driven erratically on Hayes Hill Road.
- Aug. 10 11:46 a.m. A criminal complaint is issued to a driver operating an unregistered vehicle without a driver's license.
- Aug. 11 1:20 a.m. A Norfolk Road resident, whose dog has escaped from his fenced-in yard, inquires if anyone has called in to report a dog on the loose.
- 8:21 a.m. A resident requests patrols to curb speeding on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 8:41 p.m. A driver, stopped for speeding on Mill River Great Barrington Road, is issued a criminal complaint for driving with a suspended license.
- Aug. 12 6:30 a.m. National Grid alerted to a tree on wires on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Aug. 13 9:19 a.m. Officer is called to calm a rageful verbal exchange between motorists on Adsit Crosby Road.
- 12:00 p.m. Tree down on Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road is removed by the Highway Department.
- 2:40 p.m. The owner is contacted when an officer notices a cow loose in a pasture, not her own, on Hartsville Mill River Road.
- Aug. 14 9:07 a.m. National Grid is called to clear a tree on wires on Brewer Hill Road.
- 10:24 a.m. Following the report of a stray dog on Peter Menaker Road, an officer delivers the dog to a pound.
- 6:21 p.m. A driver is pulled over for throwing beer cans out of his pick-up truck on New Marlborough Southfield Road.
- 6:49 p.m. A Peter Menaker Road resident reports that her dog is missing.
- Aug. 15 10:14 a.m. A Shunpike Road resident reports that her dog has gone missing; calls back forty minutes later to say that she has returned.
- Aug. 16 12:47 a.m. State police broadcast a BOLO (be on the lookout) for a teen who has wandered away from her Hartsville home.
- Aug. 20 1:44 p.m. Driver reports hitting a deer on Canaan Southfield Road.
- Aug. 21 8:19 p.m. National Grid notified of a tree on wires on Canaan Southfield Road.
- Aug. 24 1:34 p.m. National Grid notified of a tree on wires on Umpachene Falls Road.
- 5:52 p.m. Hotchkiss Road resident complains of noise from motor bikes in the vicinity of Thousand Acre Swamp.
- 8:38 p.m. Investigation of a complaint of gunshots on Hayes Hill Road reveals the noise came from fireworks.
- Aug. 29 12:19 a.m. Downed tree blocking both lanes of Canaan Southfield Road.
- 8:32 p.m. A driver reports that he hit a mailbox on Adsit Crosby Road in swerving to avoid a deer, and, finding no one at home, that he planned to return the following morning to explain the damage.
- Aug. 30 8:04 a.m. A Hayes Hill Road resident reports harassment from a neighbor who had

trespassed onto her front lawn and yelled at her.
 2:07 p.m. National Grid notified of a tree on wires on Umpachene Falls Road.
 4:22 p.m. A driver hits a guard rail on Canaan Southfield Road.

In the month of August, officers made 110 motor vehicle stops and issued warnings and citations for offenses ranging from overdue inspection and expired registration to speeding, suspended license, and operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

FIRE AND RESCUE

August 2	10:02 a.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call	August 15	10:02 a.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
August 4	10:46 a.m.	Norfolk Road Fire Alarm	August 17	11:02 a.m.	New Marlborough Hartsville Road Fire Alarm
August 4	6:20 p.m.	Campbell Falls Road Medical Call	August 17	11:22 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
August 7	8:54 p.m.	New Marlborough Hartsville Road MVA	August 20	2:00 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
August 8	6:26 p.m.	Keyes Hill & Canaan Southfield Roads Tree/Wires Down	August 26	8:10 p.m.	Peter Menaker Road Fire Alarm
August 10	2:03 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call	August 27	7:57 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Norfolk Structure Fire
August 10	2:58 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call	August 29	8:11 a.m.	Hadsell Street Medical Call
August 10	4:09 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call	August 30	4:36 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road MVA

Fire Company President David Smith

The New Marlborough Fire Company Thanks You

Thank you to all who supported the New Marlborough Fire Company's 26th Annual Pig Roast. Thanks also to the hearty souls who stayed on after a thunderstorm forced festivities inside. This year's event was another success and would not have been possible without the support of the New Marlborough community and our many sponsors, including:

- The Mill River General Store and Jess and Todd Holcomb — for selling dinner and raffle tickets, wrangling food, beverage, and supply orders, and handling countless other requests
- The Farm New Marlborough and Tom Brazie — for providing our "guests of honor"
- Mill River Farm and Jan Johnson — for donating delicious salad greens
- Boardman's Farm Stand — for the fresh corn and vegetables
- And, to the spouses, partners, and children — for help with setup, serving, cleanup, and various tasks throughout the event.

Thank you to all!

Our Grand Raffle Prize Contributors:

Agway Great Barrington	Great Barrington Bagel Company	Red Lion Inn
Barrington Brewery & Restaurant	Great Barrington Pizza House	Robin's Candy
Ben's	Guido's Fresh Marketplace	Roma Pizzeria
Berkshire Bike & Board	Gulotta's Mobil	Sheffield Pottery
Berkshire Styles Salon	Heirloom's Jewelry	Sidetracks
Bizen Gourmet Japanese Restaurant and Sushi Bar	H.L. Dalis	Southern Berkshire Power Equipment
Caddie Shack	Hilltown Recycling	Stadium System, Inc.
Canaan Auto Supply	John B. Hull, Inc.	Stateline Pizza
The Cordial Shop Package Store	C.A. Lindell and Son True Value Hardware	Sundari Hair Studio
Cumberland Farms Great Barrington	Lawrence of London	Taconic Valley Lawn & Garden
Domaney's Liquors and Fine Wines	Lynn Chase Designs	Tom's Toys
Eagle Shoe & Boot Co.	Main Street	TP Saddleblanket and Trading
The East Asian Cuisine	Manhattan Pizza	Ward's Nursery & Garden Center
Evergreen Contemporary American Crafts	The Marketplace	Wildflowers Florist
Fuel	The Painter's Palette – Tracy Hanselman	Williams & Sons Country Store
GB Eats	Peace, Love & Chocolate	Zabian's Fine Jewelers
Girardi Distributors	Plaza Package Store	

Fire Company President David Smith

A REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

One goal of the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee for the 2019-20 school year is to improve communication with the community and encourage engagement with the work of the district. The Committee is dedicated to improving student achievement and meeting the needs of our community members. I hope this new column will contribute to the effort.

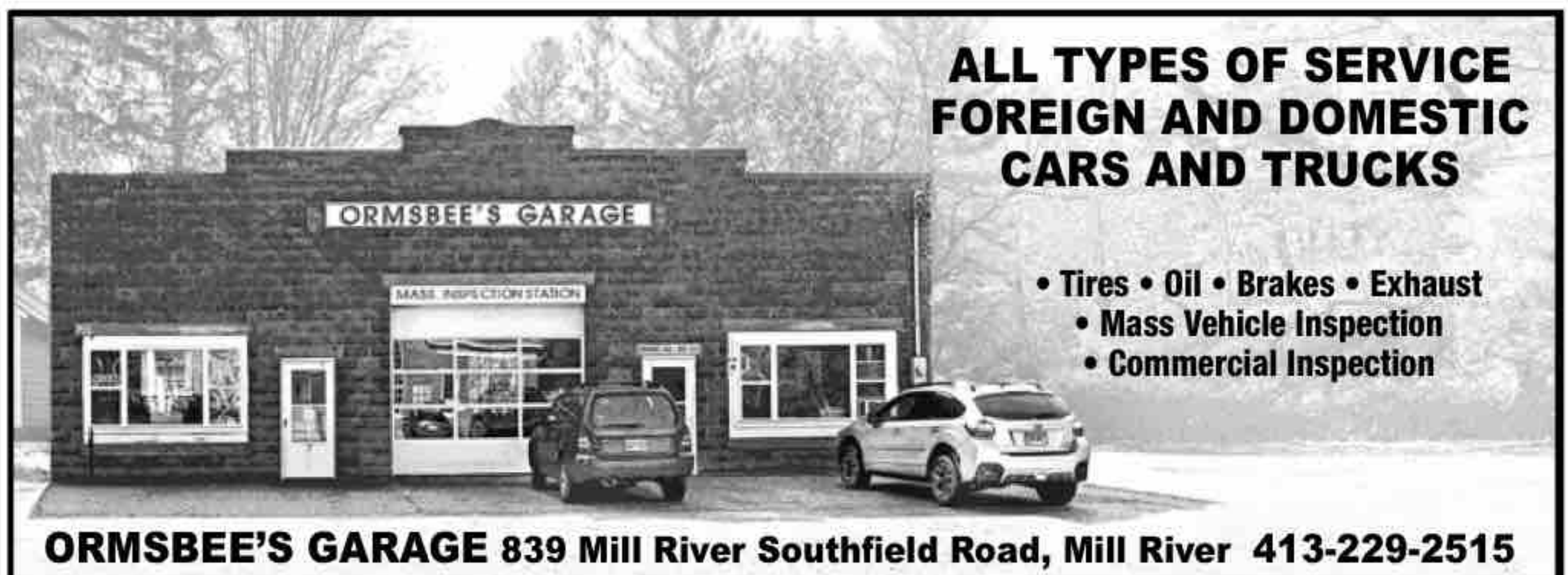
Recent meetings have dealt with important issues including the replacement of retiring Business Manager Christine Regan. This proved to be a challenge. Although the position was posted for months, no qualified applicant was found. Superintendent Beth Regulbuto, formerly a business manager herself, concluded that, while we continue to post the position, it would be prudent to contract with a professional business management services firm that could help us establish a seamless transition prior to the departure of Ms. Regan on July 31. The committee voted unanimously to sign a one-year contract with TMSolutions of Auburn, Massachusetts, which specializes in schools. We were impressed by its recent work with Hadley and Ludlow public schools. Two TMSolutions associates will be at district offices at least two days a week and attend School Committee and other relevant meetings throughout the year.

The committee was also impressed with a presentation by Community Health Program, Volunteers in Medicine, and Railroad Street Youth Program about the Coordinated Care Mobile Clinic offered by a consortium of South County providers. A special mobile unit staffed by a nurse and medical professionals would visit campus every other week to see students seeking help with emotional and physical problems. Berkshire Hills Regional Schools and Railroad Street Youth Project have already signed on. Ms. Regulbuto will work with TMSolutions to see if the district has funds available to bring this opportunity to Mount Everett students. The

mobile clinic is free, but funds must be raised to pay the salary of the nurse associated with the clinic.

At the Regional Roundtable Meeting on August 1, Ms. Regulbuto engaged officials from all five towns in a discussion about consolidation with the Berkshire Hills Regional Schools District (BHRSD). The officials decided to form a committee to pursue this possibility. The SBRSD School Committee's Ad Hoc Southern Berkshire Educational Futures subcommittee met twice to discuss at length how to think about the full committee's role in this process. After approval from the full committee at its September 12 meeting, Vice Chair Jonathan Bruno and I traveled that same day to a BHRSD School Committee meeting to announce that SBRSD was willing to open up the discussion of consolidation to include pre-kindergarten to twelfth grades. Thereupon, the BHRSD School Committee agreed to a meeting of five representatives from each district, accompanied by Superintendents Regulbuto and Peter Dillon.

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation provided the venue for that meeting, which took place September 19. School Committee Chairmen Steve Bannon and I raised the issue of what role the school committees should play in an exploration of consolidation. Sheffield Selectman Nadine Hawyer, attending the meeting, is a leader on the municipal committee exploring regionalization. She noted that the constructive and respectful dialog between the School Committees indicated that the municipal group should welcome them into its deliberations to avoid working at cross purposes. She invited them to attend a meeting on September 25 where the group would be expanded to include school committee representation. This group would then explore whether consolidation could improve student experience and affordability. If they find positive indicators for



**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

consolidation, a more formal process will be established to deal with the very complex issues that have to be resolved to move forward.

This school year includes the launch of the new middle school program for grades six through eight, a new curriculum to promote social and emotional skills, and a new career pathways initiative at the high school. The committee is impressed with the teamwork between administrators and teachers that has enabled these positive additions to be implemented.

In fact, it has committed itself to adapting this sort of teamwork to its own practice. An initial training retreat for the committee was held at Flying Cloud Farm in New Marlborough on the evening of September 17. With the help of delicious food prepared by the Jessica

Holcomb from the Mill River General Store, facilitators from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees led the group through a productive two-hour seminar on roles and responsibilities. One veteran committee member commented that it was the best discussion ever held by the committee. The group is eager for the next session knowing there is a lot of work ahead of us. It was clear that our success in meeting our obligation to providing the best education for students depends upon our ability to work together with our superintendent as a unified team. □

School Committee Chairman Jane Burke

MEANWHILE, BACK AT NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTRAL...



photos by Daniel Weston

Left, Fourth grader Erica Wilson brushes up on her math skills using the computer program Prodigy. Center, Kindergartners paint sheep with puffy paint, while pre-Kindergarten student Ben Schaeffer, right, indicates his approval to painting in general.

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!

Thank You to Our Contributors:

Dr. Hildreth McCarthy for Mrs. Robert Church; Michael Skrak; Constance Rugg Booth; Lee Backer & Joan Elmer; and Edward Goodnow

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

The Secrets We Keep, by Laura Prescott
The Grammarians, by Cathleen Schine
A Woman Is No Man, by Etaf Rum
Quichotte, by Salman Rushdie
The Dearly Beloved, by Cara Wall
The Long Call, by Anne Cleeves
The Girl Who Lived Twice, by David Lagercrantz

Adult Nonfiction

How To Raise a Reader, by Pamela Paul
Tiny But Mighty: Kitten Lady's Guide To Saving the Most Vulnerable Felines, by Hannah Shaw
To the Summit, Fifty Mountains that Lure, Inspire and Challenge, by Joseph Poindexter

Children's Fiction

Sweeping Up the Heart, by Kevin Henkes
Guts, by Raina Telgemeier
Sea Bear, by Lindsay Moore
Fly!, by Mark Teague
The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Riddle of Ages, by Trenton Lee Stewart
Apple Cake: a Gratitude, by Dawn Casey

Children's Nonfiction

Put On Your Owl Eyes: Open Your Senses and Discover Nature's Secrets, by Devin Franklin
Little Librarian, Big Heroes, by Miranda Paul



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



**You're Invited to
 a Halloween Scare
 Come and Join Us If You Dare!**

**Hayrides, Spooky Trail Walk, Bonfire,
 Storyteller, Refreshments**

**We will meet at the Goodnow Preserve located
 on the Mill River Southfield Road
 October 26 at 4:30 p.m.**

(BRING A FLASHLIGHT!)

**In case of rain we will meet at
 the Meeting House in New Marlborough Center**

*This Program is Sponsored by: The New Marlborough Friends of the Library
 The New Marlborough Historical Society, and The New Marlborough Land Trust
 with Special thanks to the New Marlborough Fire Department*

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, 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.

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.

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

Joe Poindexter, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;

Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke,

Barbara Lowman, David Lowman, Peter Schuyten,

Barry Shapiro, Sandra Fusco-Walker

Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger,

Fiona Kerr, 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 November 2019.

All copy must be submitted no later than October 18.

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 10/19

- **Dellea.biz Computer Services:** has provided local residents with on-site Windows computer repairs and technical support since 1996. Book appointments online at <https://dellea.biz> or call (413) 528-1141.
- **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget-aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. (413)528-4960. 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 & Sons, Inc:** A family-run general contractor business serving the MA and CT area since 1988 - new construction, additions, remodeling, and more. Licensed and insured. Call (413) 229-8450 for free consultation.

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