



# New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield



## SAVING A TOWN TREASURE

### *The Historic Stone Arch Bridge over Campbell Falls Is Getting Needed Help*

By John Schreiber and Louise Yohalem

What do the Roman Colosseum, the U.S. Capitol Building and New Marlborough's Campbell Falls bridge have in common? These structures are built of stone blocks with a keystone in the center of the arch that is critical to its strength. They are all notable keystone arch constructions!

Recently, *The Berkshire Eagle* had a front-page Outdoors Section article on historic keystone arch bridges in Massachusetts. Our own beautiful Campbell Falls bridge is not among those featured because the equally beautiful historic stone bridges in Chester, Middlefield, and Becket are now preserved, thanks to the efforts of several non-profit organizations.

These four bridges were built from the early 1800s to the beginning of the twentieth century as durable stone bridges to bear wagons over rivers and waterways, and later for railroads and automobiles. Block and tackle, wooden cranes, scaffolding, and pulleys with oxen and mules were used to raise the blocks into the correct, tight positions, often with little or no mortar required.



photo by John Schreiber

*The Campbell's Falls Road bridge, spanning the Whiting River, as seen from the north side*

New Marlborough's antique keystone arch bridge is a remarkable structure that spans the Whiting River above Campbell Falls and, according to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, was constructed between 1820-1830. The striking beauty of this stone bridge can be appreciated properly by hiking down a short way on either side of the road. This effort is well worth it, as the vantage point reveals the bridge's enormous stone blocks framing the Whiting River roaring beneath them – a construction that has resisted natural and man-made stress for two centuries.

Unfortunately, weather, time, and vibrations from increased traffic are now taking their toll. The bridge, which is owned by the Town of New Marlborough, passed Massachusetts Department of Transportation inspection in 2017 with several areas noted as requiring urgent attention. The extremely wet summer this year and severe road run-off, compounded by the closing of the other Campbell Falls Bridge for replacement with a resulting increase in traffic for this bridge, have greatly accelerated the deterioration. Should the bridge be closed due to structural failure, the New Marlborough Highway Department would be forced to permanently close Campbell Falls

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*continued*



*Saving a Town Treasure, continued*

Road so that it would dead-end at the bridge from either direction. Thus, preservation of this bridge is not only of strong historical importance to the town but also critical to the residents of Campbell Falls Road and vehicles that use the road.

The New Marlborough Historical Society will apply to have the bridge designated a Massachusetts Historic Place, a recognition every bit as deserved as has already been conferred on other stone arch bridges in the commonwealth. As required under the Wetlands Protection Act (310 CMR), the Society will next seek permissions from the state Department of Environmental Protection and the New Marlborough Conservation Commission, which will convey their requirements for preserving the integrity of the Whiting River, including creating catch basins to prevent erosion from further runoff.

The Society began the process of bridge restoration and stabilization in 2019. An engineer who specializes in stone bridges paid a site visit and subsequently wrote a detailed report which outlines the restoration work required. The estimated cost of repairs is \$150,000 (far less than the cost of replacing the bridge with a modern concrete and steel span). Unfortunately, the pandemic and insufficient Town fiscal resources have slowed down the process for moving ahead with the restoration.

Like the non-profits in Chester, Middlefield, and Becket, the New Marlborough Historical



*A view of the south facade of the Campbell's Falls Road bridge photo by John Schreiber*

Society is committed to assuring restoration of its historic keystone arch bridge. The Society has begun a "Save the Bridge Campaign" with the goal of raising \$150,000 so that full restoration and stabilization can occur in the near future. The success of this campaign will enable the Society to hire a qualified, experienced stone mason to complete the restoration repairs. The result? In 200 more years, the New Marlborough community will remark at the wonder of a fully functioning Campbell Falls bridge thanks to the efforts and generosity of their 2021 forebears. □

*John Schreiber serves on the Town's Conservation and Historic Commissions, and Louise Yohalem on its Cultural Council; both are members of the Historical Society Board.*



*A keystone bridge under construction in the early part of the 20th Century.*



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photo by Larry Burke



photo by Diane Barth



photo by Diane Barth

The Wonder in the Wander, a showing of works by artists under age 40, opened at the Meeting House Gallery in New Marlborough Village on September 14. A lively, multi-generational crowd gathered to celebrate the artists, listen to live music, and just enjoy being in the actual, not virtual, presence of friends and acquaintances. The show is open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through October 3.

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## Town Business Is Your Business

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**August 23:** With all three selectmen continuing to meet via Zoom, the first order of business was to approve the transfer of the Mill River Store's package store license from former owner Dave Herrick to Jan Johnson's Mill River General Store LLC. That done, the Board then awarded a contract for the reclamation and repaving of Hatchery Road to LB Corporation of Lee, based on a recommendation from Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring. LB's was the lowest of four bids at \$143,240.29. The work is scheduled to begin next week.

**In other road work developments, the Board approved a revised cost estimate by LB Corp. of \$53,650 for the emergency repair of Campbell Falls Road.** That's \$5,000 more than the original price, which was premised on being able to use an excavator to do the work. As it turned out, LB discovered it couldn't get its excavator over a bridge to the work site, and so instead, it has had to use a crane to drive the pilings into the river embankment, accounting for the additional cost.

**In other matters, the Board reviewed a dangerous dog order drafted by Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard relating to a dog bite incident that occurred June 5 on Adsit Crosby Road.** As previously reported, a public hearing was held August 4 based on a complaint filed by Sarah Mattola of Adsit Crosby Road alleging that while walking her miniature dachshund, Frankie, she was attacked and knocked to the ground by a large, two-year-old malamute named Xanadu owned by Adsit Crosby Road residents Lauren Rosen and Olen Dick. The attack left Ms. Mattola with scratches and two puncture wounds on her shoulder that required treatment, including stitches, at Fairview Hospital. Frankie was unharmed.

The order stipulates that Xanadu, who since the attack

has been undergoing obedience training, be confined to her owners' premises, either indoors or outdoors in a securely enclosed and locked pen on their property. The order further stipulates that when the dog is out in public she be securely but humanely muzzled and restrained with a leash or other tethering device having a tensile strength of 300 pounds and not exceeding three feet in length. And finally, based on supportive testimony from Animal Control Officer Cassie Keeley and obedience trainer Meredith O'Connor, the order provides the Board with the flexibility to review the order's findings after one year for possible revision or revocation based on the dog's behavior at that time. The Board then approved some minor changes to the language in the order and directed that it be returned to Town Counsel Pollard for finalizing.

**The Board appointed Selectman Mark Carson to be the Town's delegate to the southeast sub-regional caucus of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).** The MPO is responsible under federal law for the transportation planning process for the county, and for determining the eligibility of transportation projects for federal funding. The nine towns comprising the southeastern region are Becket, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Sandisfield, and Tyringham.

**The Board approved the annual Memorandum of Understanding between New Marlborough and the Town of Great Barrington for the use of the Great Barrington police lockup and breath-testing equipment for the year ending June 30, 2022.** The per diem rate is \$150 for individuals held for less than twelve hours. If the person is unable to make bail within that time, the New Marlborough police will be responsible for transporting



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the prisoner to the House of Correction in Pittsfield.

**The Board voted to approve the changeover to Spectrum's Internet service from Crocker Communications at the Town Hall, Library, and Highway Garage, despite not having final pricing for the service.** Board Chairman Richard Long noted, "We want to move forward quickly on this, as we need Internet access in those locations." The Board had received estimated cost ranges for the three locations from resident Mark Trachtenberg, who's been advising the Board on the changeover. There was also some concern as to whether there's sufficient money in the budget to cover the changeover, but Selectman Tara White pointed out that the Board could always tap the Reserve Fund if it runs short. The Board then voted to appoint Mr. Trachtenberg to the Cable Advisory Committee on Chairman Steve Klein's recommendation.

Following approval of the minutes from the July 21, July 29, August 4, and August 9 meetings, the meetings was adjourned.

*Peter Schuyten  
schuytenp@gmail.com*

**August 24:** The Board held a so-called "nuisance or dangerous dog hearing" to determine what to do about Reba, a large mixed-breed rescue dog owned by Tom Sebestyen and Leslie Fishbein of Knight Road. On July 29, Reba had gotten loose, crossed over to the chicken coop on the neighboring Aberdeen Lane property owned by the Liba family, and killed one of the chickens. Some of the younger chickens then fled the coop and one was chased down and killed by the dog. Reba once again breached the fencing around the coop, this time killing three more pullets.

Those, in essence, were the events that precipitated the hearing. A sub-theme, however, was immediately

introduced by Carrie Liba, who was accompanied by her husband, Kevin. Armed with a mobile phone showing video footage recorded by surveillance cameras surrounding her property, Mrs. Liba showed Reba first being escorted away by Ms. Fishbein, but then being let off leash, "even before they left our property," said Mrs. Liba. Mr. Sebestyen and Ms. Fishbein had no rebuttal. Additional footage showed Reba's return to wreak further mayhem. Mrs. Liba described the trauma felt by their children as they watched the killing of the chicks, which they had helped raise and to which they were devoted.

In the end, the emotional element of the attack was deemed irrelevant to the purpose of the hearing, and the Board moved ahead to a determination of Reba's status: nuisance or dangerous? **Tara White and Richard Long rejected Mark Carson's request that the dog be labeled a nuisance and opted for the more severe designation of "dangerous," as she had killed animals in a right-to-farm community.** They then specified that Reba undergo training, that she be confined to his property by fencing, and that when out in the public, she be restrained by a leash not greater than three feet in length and capable of sustaining at least 300 pounds of force. The issue is to be revisited in a year's time.

With approval of these requirements and a request that they be translated into legalese by Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard, the hearing was adjourned.

*Joe Poindexter  
boydpoin Dexter@gmail.com*

**September 13:** At 5:32 Chairman Richard Long convened a hearing via Zoom on the licensing of a dog kennels known as Revelry Tervuren Kennels. The business, located at 707 Norfolk Road, is owned and operated by Megan Barbeaux. A number of the people present on this Zoom call were from the area around New



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Marlborough Village, all concerned that the business appears to be in the process of moving to a new location on Branch Road in New Marlborough Village.

Chairman Long invited Animal Control Officer Cassie Keeley to speak on the subject. Ms. Keeley began by saying that she had requested the hearing in order to ask the Board of Selectmen to revoke the kennels' license application. She then read a prepared statement which detailed the complaints about the kennels she had received dating back many months, the resistance by the owner to addressing problems, and the refusal of the owner to cooperate with officials. She said that the last time Ms. Barbeaux sought a license was 2013 and had never relicensed since then; further, Ms. Barbeaux had been unwilling to allow on-site inspections of the kennels in the last five months, had repeatedly cancelled inspections by Ms. Keeley and even Police Chief Graham Frank; there have been eight complaints of animal neglect and abuse lodged since April; at that time the fourteen dogs in the kennel had no rabies certificates or up-to-date vaccinations; in late June, after neighbors' complaints of heat-related neglect of the dogs, Ms. Keeley felt she had to request intervention by the Massachusetts ASPCA. **Concluding her statement, Ms. Keeley requested that the Board revoke Ms. Barbeaux's license application and require that she find, within two weeks, suitable, safe homes for all but four of the dogs, four being the maximum number a private citizen can keep.**

Asked to weigh in on legal questions, Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard started off with, "It is a crime to run a kennels without a license." He would like to have Chief Frank look into the possible criminality, and, on the civil law side, he felt that, because of the immediate threat to the health of the dogs, he would be ready to go into

*Asked to weigh in on legal questions, Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard started off with, "It is a crime to run a kennels without a license."*

District Court to seek an order of forfeiture, to rescue the dogs from Revelry Tervuren Kennels.

**Shortly following Attorney Pollard's observations on the situation, the Board voted unanimously to deny a license to Revelry Tervuren Kennels throughout New Marlborough,** and to authorize Town Counsel to take whatever legal actions are required to liberate the dogs from the inhumane conditions they are experiencing.

Turning to yet another dog-related matter, the Board entertained a request from Tom Sebestyen and Leslie Fishbein, the owners of Reba, who was the subject of a dangerous dog hearing on August 24 (see above). Mr. Sebestyen and Ms. Fishbein asked that the leash length that was imposed at the hearing (three feet) be adjusted to ten feet. After some discussion between the Selectmen, Town Counsel, and the Animal Control Officer, the Board agreed to allow Reba to be on a six-foot leash.

Getting on to business items on the agenda, **Town Administrator Mari Enoch asked that the Board vote to certify that New Marlborough will remain a single voting district.** This certification is required every ten years, as a provision of the U.S. Census. Ms. Enoch added, parenthetically, that the town is now officially listed as having 1,528 residents.

The Board then took up consideration of a letter from Jan Johnson, owner of the Mill River General Store, addressed to officials at the U. S. Postal Service, making the case for the reopening of the Post Office in Mill River. Chairman Long made a motion to the effect that the Board endorses the effort and will issue a letter of support, encouraging the reopening. Motion approved.

Under town administrator Updates, Mari Enoch had two items: 1) **The cost of Spectrum's installing and running high speed internet at the Town Hall, the library, and the town garage will be higher than**


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expected, and, to hold that cost down, the Town will sign up for a less costly, and somewhat slower (but still quite fast) package. 2) As a result of following up on a MASS DOT notice on paving projects for numbered routes (such as Routes 57 and 183), she has determined that the Town has a good possibility of obtaining resurfacing on one of two sections of Route 57, one being from Hartsville up to New Marlborough Hill Road, and the other being the span of road through the center of New Marlborough Village. The funds for this statewide project need to be expended by the end of the current fiscal year, so a decision on which is the better choice will need to be made expediently.

As for Board of Selectmen Updates, Mark Carson stated that a stretch of the Hartsville Mill River Road that runs parallel to the Konkapot River is in jeopardy from significant erosion of the river bank due to recent storms. He said that thirty-five feet of the embankment was eaten away as a result of the last storm. Mr. Long wondered what the Town could do, given that the area in question is privately owned. Mr. Carson answered

*Mark Carson stated that a stretch of the Hartsville Mill River Road that runs parallel to the Konkapot River is in jeopardy from significant erosion of the river bank due to recent storms.*

that the landowners are willing to have the Town do whatever is needed to stem the erosion. Mr. Long felt that careful consideration of environmental impacts, not to mention legal issues, is needed. Tara White added that the Conservation Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection should be brought into the loop. All three selectmen agreed that the problem needs prompt attention.

Following a round of amending the minutes of the August 23 and 24 meetings, Chairman Long adjourned this meeting at just over the one-hour mark. □

Larry Burke  
larryjburke@gmail.com

**Editor's Note:** *The August 23 account of the Board of Selectmen's meeting is the final entry in Peter Schuyten's long stint as lead reporter for the NM5VN's coverage of our town's governing body. Peter's tenure started back in March of 2012, and his detailed reporting has provided our readers with a front row seat ever since. His devotion to the job, and his overall contribution to the high quality to which this publication aspires, is deeply appreciated. Thank you, Peter!*

## YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED:

### *An Important Survey for All to Participate in*

The twenty-four member Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB) was formed two years ago to study whether there are ways education could be both better for the students and more affordable for eight towns in southern Berkshire County. The RSDPB is considering changes in the relationship between the Southern Berkshire Regional School District that serves Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough, and Sheffield, and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District that serves Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge. Research is underway to determine whether various options might yield positive outcomes. The options currently being studied are: increased collaboration between the two districts; creation of a new regional high school; and, the full consolidation of the two districts into one new district.

The opinions of community members are being sought by the RSDPB. Shortly, you will be invited to participate in an on-line Community Survey to be completed in October. Your informed input is key to the success of the work of the RSDPB. Ultimately, it is the vote of the citizens of these eight towns that will decide what, if any, changes occur. To prepare for the survey, you can go to

the website [www.RSDPB.org](http://www.RSDPB.org) to see documents relating to the work plan, and what has been accomplished so far. You can also contact your New Marlborough representatives Tara White, [tarabw@verizon.net](mailto:tarabw@verizon.net), Susan Smith, [ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com](mailto:ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com), or Jane Burke [janesburke@gmail.com](mailto:janesburke@gmail.com) for a conversation. □

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## VIEW FROM THE BOARD

Regular Town business is with us throughout the year, but two significant issues have dominated the summer and early fall seasons: significant road damage from heavy rains and dog incidents.

The extraordinary rains of the season certainly broke the drought of recent summers, but they also caused heavy erosion damage to the dirt roads of town, including a major bank stabilization issue on Campbells Falls Road. To date, the Town has incurred \$190,708.68 in emergency repair costs associated with the storms. These costs are not covered in the regular budget, and thus will require special appropriation from reserve funds. That is the bad news.

The possible good news is that an emergency grant request has been submitted through the Massachusetts EMA for federal funds to help address the issue. Other towns in the area also submitted. There is no certainty we will obtain help, but thanks to the strong efforts of Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring and Emergency Management Director Barbara Marchione in putting the grant request together, we are hopeful.

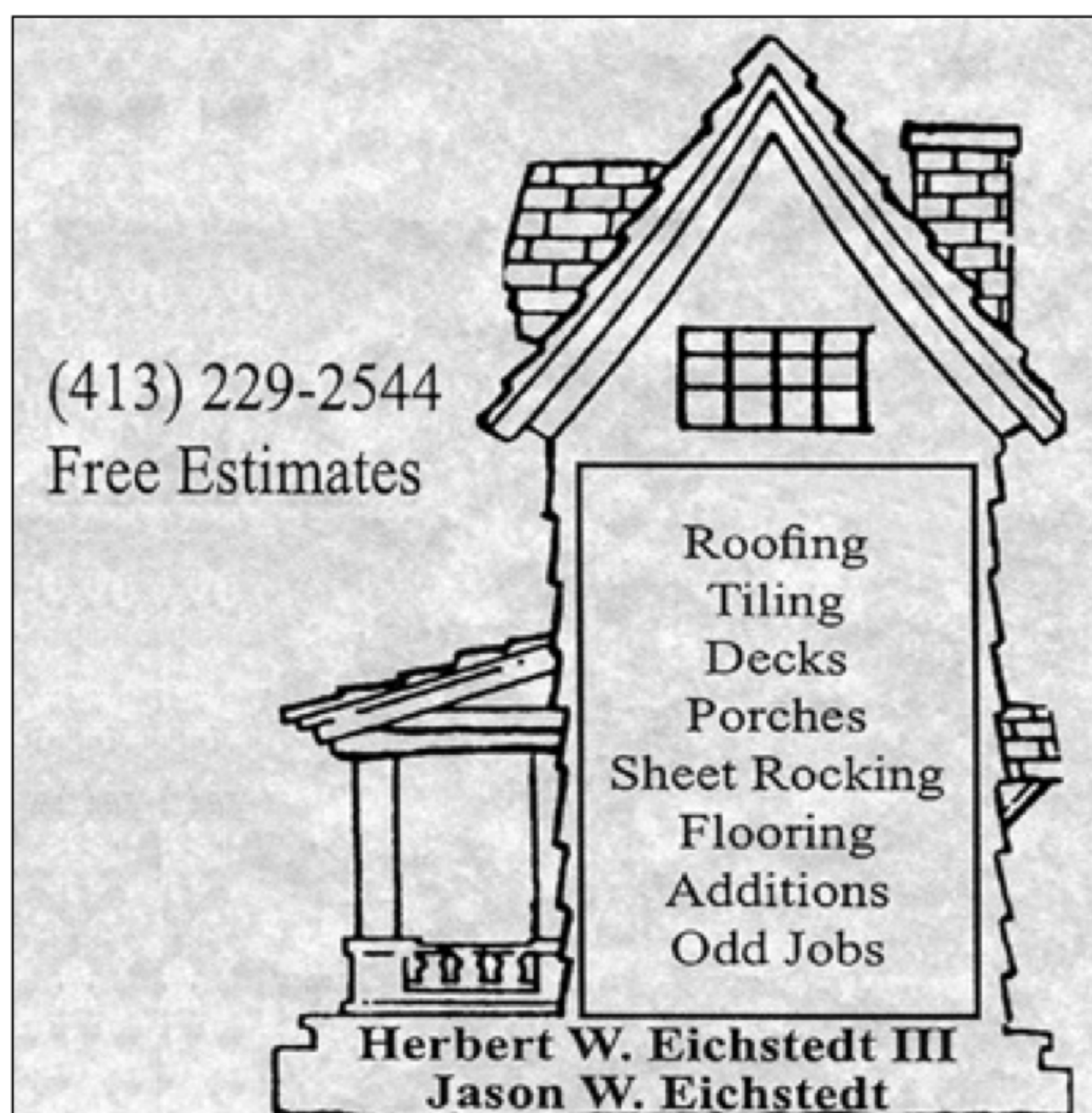
We live in a beautiful rural area where many people have dogs as loved pets. It seems natural to want to let the dogs run free, but in fact, as is true throughout the state, other than when under control on private property, dogs must be kept leashed, per Town bylaw. We have had incidents caused by unleashed dogs attacking another dog, attacking a person holding a small dog and, yet others, attacking and killing or injuring chickens. New Marlborough is a right-to-farm community, and under

state law, farm animals are protected, and their owners have redress rights.

Your Board of Selectmen would prefer not to be in the business of adjudicating dog-related incidents. So, do love your dogs and walk or run with them, but be considerate of your neighbors and respect the Town bylaw by keeping them on leash. In doing so, you protect your interests as well.

The Town must soon begin the annual process of budgeting, both for the regular operating budget and the capital budget. The Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee bear the significant planning responsibility along with Town departments. We very much need at least two more members for the newly formed Capital Planning Committee, established by vote at last year's Annual Town Meeting. If you have some financial, accounting, or management background, please volunteer to serve by contacting the town administrator at [nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov](mailto:nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov). □

*Richard Long, Chairman, Board of Selectmen*



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## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

All Commission members – John Schreiber, Freddy Friedman, Nanci Worthington, and Doug Hyde – convened via Zoom on the evening of September 16 to address the month's agenda.

The Commission addressed a Request For Determination submitted by Michele McAuley of 1055 Clayton Mill River Road. At issue was the removal of a group of pine trees threatening her house – one of which recently fell. In addition, Ms. McAuley proposed the removal of another group of trees in precarious condition in back of the house. After some discussion the Commission agreed that no further permitting would be required and requested a one-to-one replacement with native hardwoods and/or shrubbery.

Next, Matthew Puntin of SK Design Group addressed the Commission on behalf of his clients, Peter and Elizabeth Reynolds of 1093 Clayton Mill River Road. Mr. Puntin fielded questions concerning the location and engineering of a new septic system in a jurisdictional area. The Commission agreed that no further permitting was required and included the conditions that the system be built according to the plan and that the Commission reserves the right to inspect the work during installation.

Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates then addressed the Commission regarding the continued hear-

ing for a cease and desist order issued to Grassmarket LLC for a property on Konkapot Road. Two violations have been highlighted by the Commission: using an agricultural road in order to access and develop the property, and removing trees in a flood plain. Ms. Stockman explained that the required restoration plan is not yet completed and will be submitted after a surveyor delineates the flood plain area at the site. The hearing was continued until next meeting.

The Commission then had a somewhat heated discussion with Tim Martin, owner of a property on Konkapot Road, regarding a cease-and-desist order delivered to him by the Commission over concerns that the slurry from a drilled well on his property flowed onto the adjacent property and into a jurisdictional area. The parties agreed to seek consultation from the Department of Environmental Protection in order to resolve the situation.

Finally, Mike Kulig of Berkshire Engineering requested approval and a Certificate of Compliance for work completed at 103 Hayes Hill Road for Hayes Hill Nominee Trust. The Commission approved the certificate. The next meeting was then scheduled for October 21 at 5:00 p.m. □

*Reported by Martha Bryan*

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## THE ANNUAL PIG ROAST - EVERYBODY'S A WINNER!

Thank you to everyone who turned out Saturday, August 21, to make the annual New Marlborough Fire Company Pig Roast and Raffle another success. We couldn't do it without you!

We would especially like to thank our sponsors and donors:

- The Farm New Marlborough and Tom Brazie — for providing the pigs
- Ormsbee Gas Co — for donating the propane
- Mill River Farm and Jan Johnson — for donating delicious salad greens
- The Mill River General Store and Peter Chapin — for selling dinner and raffle tickets and pitching in on the lettuce
- Boardman's Farm Stand — for the fresh corn and vegetables
- Clarke Outdoors — for the Grand Raffle grand prize
- Dave Herrick — for rounding up supplies
- Ginny Dawson and helpers — for selling tickets at the Farmer's Market
- Our Southfield Neighbors — for attending the event and supporting three days of preparations, the festivities, and the cleanup
- Our many helpers, including Kathie Loring, Maureen and Joe Krecji, Laura and Kathleen Dillon, Tammy Lane, and Tess Feddell and family

Please support our local businesses.

And, congratulations to our raffle winners:

- Grand Prize (paddleboard package or \$2,000 cash) — David Huntley
- Second Prize (\$500) — Ira Hillman
- Third Prize (\$250) — Terry Mullen

Thank you, all, and we'll see you again next year! Of course, if it's an emergency, and you need to see us sooner, just dial 911! □



# THE E-BIKE REVOLUTION ROLLS THROUGH NEW MARLBOROUGH

By Barry R. Shapiro

Drivers in New Marlborough are noticing a most unusual sight these days — bicyclists sporting huge grins while pedaling up some of the steepest hills in town, a dramatic contrast with the anguished grimace typically seen on the sweaty faces of cyclists struggling to crest a formidable hill.

Just what accounts for this transformation?

Well, unless the cyclist is a rider from the Tour de France who made a very wrong turn somewhere, almost certainly the rider is pedaling an electric bike, commonly called an e-bike.

E-bikes are by far the fastest growing segment of the bicycling industry and their acolytes are ecstatic over them. “I love it,” says resident Michele McAuley. “I ride it from home in Mill River to my job in Great Barrington. It flattens the hills, and I don’t arrive all sweaty.”

“I’m not into the whole biking scene,” says Michele’s neighbor, Liz Goodman, “but I love my e-bike. I can get out, get fresh air and exercise without killing myself. And I can wear regular clothes and not that biking gear!”

Resident John Valente is so excited about his e-bike that he’s about to upgrade to a new one. “It’s a total game changer and the best thing I ever did. I ride three or four times a week which I never would have done before and, at age 75, I’m more physically fit than before. It’s a real high!”

Ok, you may ask, “What is an e-bike and what makes it so special?”

For starters, e-bikes are very similar to road or mountain bikes but have a game changing difference: an added battery-powered motor that silently boosts pedaling power.

Local expert on all things bicycle-related, Steffen Root, resident of Hartsville and owner of Berkshire Bike and Board in Great Barrington, explains: “You barely have to force the pedals. The bike is reactive to your power. The more you push, the more power the battery delivers. It’s the pedaling fountain of youth. In fact, it’s like the hand of God on your back or the feeling you had



Michele McAuley and Liz Goodman are all smiles on their e-bike excursion. photo by Michele McAuley

when your dad or mom gently pushed your back when you were first learning. It is life changing. One woman in her early 70’s recently bought an e-bike from us and came back shortly thereafter, telling us that riding her new bike has given her the most fun she’s had in years. That gives me chills.”

There are three types of e-bikes: Class 1 e-bikes provide assistance while you pedal, up to a top speed of 20 miles per hour; Class 2 e-bikes are like a moped,

have a throttle, and power your ride even if you are not pedaling, but only up to 20 miles per hour; Class 3 e-bikes are just like Class 1 e-bikes but max out at 28 miles per hour and are the fastest legal e-bike.

Motors for the Class 1 and 3 e-bikes are typically mounted in the middle of the bike (so-called mid-drive motors) and transfer power to the wheel via the bicycle chain. They feel more natural as you pedal. The Class 2 moped/e-bike typically has the motor mounted on the wheel hub which is less efficient and can throw off the bike’s center of gravity.

E-bikes are not light and, with the motor and battery, can weigh 50 pounds, although some more expensive bikes can be 10 pounds lighter. The weight of the bikes means that they can only be transported on the back of a car or SUV equipped with a special heavy-duty bike rack, typically attached to a trailer hitch.

The lithium-ion battery, which powers the all-important motor, can be removed from the bike, and needs to be regularly

charged by plugging it into a standard electrical outlet. How long the battery lasts per charge depends on a variety of factors, such as size of the battery, the weight of the rider, how hilly the terrain is, whether the wind is a head or tail wind, and the power setting used by the rider (there are three, Eco, Sport and Turbo depending on the amount of assist desired). Mileage will vary from 30 to 60 miles. Pedaling does not charge the battery. A display mounted on the handlebars provides the rider with im-



John Valente, at right, with two e-bike buddies, John Sellew at left and Rocky Greenberg center, on a long jaunt out to Upper Spectacle Pond in Otis.



portant information such as which power assist setting has been chosen, remaining battery life and total miles ridden. “Just as people change the gears on their bike,” explains Mr. Root, “people now also change the power assist setting depending on what they may need or want.”

Mr. Root stresses something repeatedly heard from many converts to e-biking: “People ride more often when they have an e-bike and get much more exercise because they are not intimidated by distances or hills.”

In one study mentioned by Mr. Root, 100 people were given new bikes. Half were given electric bikes and half were given traditional bikes (what John Valente laughingly calls “acoustic” bikes). The study tested the subjects’ maximal aerobic capacity (a measure of the lungs’ efficiency at taking in and delivering oxygen to working muscles) at the start of the test and again after thirty days. Logic might tell you that the group riding the traditional bikes (who, of course, had to pedal harder than the e-bikers) had the greater improvement in lung capacity, but logic would be wrong. In fact, the group riding the e-bikes improved more than those riding the traditional bikes, the reason being that the e-bikers rode far more than the traditional bikers, clearly because they enjoyed the experience more. Other studies confirm that people who have e-bikes simply use them more often.

“The e-bike changes mental barriers to riding,” says Mr. Root, “and people are more likely to ride more.”

For years, Americans owned more bicycles than people elsewhere in the world, but most sat in the garage, gathering cobwebs, their tires flat (sound familiar?). The arrival of the e-bike, coupled with the demand for outdoor activities brought on by the pandemic, has changed all that and e-bike sales are skyrocketing.

For the year ending this past April, e-bike sales in the United States are up 139 percent over the previous year, according to the market research firm NPD Group. In Europe, growth has been even greater and is expected to grow to 17 million a year by 2030, which means that about twice as many e-bikes will be sold in Europe than cars (only 9.9 million last year). Worldwide in the next few years, over 300 million pedal-assisted bikes will exist on roads and sidewalks, a jump of over 50 percent from 2019. By 2025, sales of e-bikes in the U.S. alone are expected to grow to over \$23 billion.

It is important to note that, along with their many virtues, e-bikes come with a hefty price tag. “Consumers can expect to spend anywhere from \$2,500 to \$15,000 on an e-bike, with most of ours being sold in the \$3,000 range,” says Mr. Root.

While some studies don’t indicate any more biking accidents with e-bikes than with traditional bicycles, at least one study showed that e-bike injuries tend to be more severe, likely due to increased speeds traveled by the e-biker. As with any bike, caution, a properly fitted helmet, and no alcohol all make sense. So does taking some time to get used to a new e-bike in an empty parking lot or seldom traveled road, remembering that e-bikes can accelerate faster and, because they are heavier and travel at a higher speed, require more time and distance to stop than a standard bike.

Steffen Root grew up in South Egremont and has been involved in the business of selling bikes since the mid-1990’s. “I bought what was then called Berkshire Bike and Blade from the original owners in 1999. In-line skates were then popular

and when interest in them faded, we moved into selling snowboards and changed our name to Berkshire Bike and Board. We moved to our new site next to the Great Barrington Fire Station in 2007 and expanded to Pittsfield in 2012.”

Mr. Root is very familiar with the explosion in e-bike sales: “We first carried them in 2007 but consumers didn’t know about them, and sales were a flop. That all changed in 2015 when sales began to take off. By 2017 we were selling a lot of them and now they are our number one source of revenue. The pandemic obviously contributed to this along with the influx of new residents who know about e-bikes and who have the discretionary income to afford one.”

Traditional bikers seen flying along the road in their spandex were originally resistant to the new e-bikes. “The hard-core cyclists were opposed to e-bikes,” says Mr. Root, “they felt that it was not biking and was cheating. We needed to break down their misconceptions and we spent lots of time offering demonstrations to get people to understand that the e-bike riders are in fact bikers.”

John Valente experienced some of this traditional biker snobbery when he showed up on his new e-bike for one of the group rides organized by Berkshire Bike and Board. “I took some good-natured ribbing from some of the other riders,” he says, “but now I’m part of the group and really look forward to my rides. E-bikes have proliferated and are accepted now.”

Mr. Root makes no attempt to suppress his delight in the happiness that e-bikes are bringing to his customers. “It’s transformative, and I love seeing what I call their ‘e-bike smile’ when they start riding and get that ‘OMG, I feel like I’m 12 again’ feeling!” □



Steffen Root, posing with a customized e-bike outside his store in Great Barrington. Photo by Barry Shapiro



## AN AWARD DELAYED BUT WELL-DESERVED

The annual Elihu Burritt Award for community service is usually presented by the New Marlborough Cultural Council (NMCC) at the Elihu Burritt Day community fair. This year the fair, scheduled for August 21, had to be cancelled because of Covid-19 concerns. Consequently, the presentation took place before around forty attendees at a separate ceremony in the New Marlborough Meeting House on September 1. The recipient was Joe Poindexter, who over the years has rejuvenated the New Marlborough Historical Society, been a central member of the *New Marlborough 5 Village News* editorial staff, and served on the boards of many community organizations.

In her opening remarks, Council Chair Nancy Barbe highlighted the contributions of former Council member Wendy Miller. Due to a recently-discovered state law that prevents any elected official from appointment to the local Cultural Council, Wendy, an elected assessor, resigned from the NMCC – and then devoted untold hours to detailed planning for Elihu Burritt Day, confirming vendors, food purveyors, musicians, entertainers, children’s activities, and equipment.

The presentation of the NMCC’s award to Joe was made by his longtime friend, Louise Yohalem, detailing the many ways that Joe has contributed to the community. This was followed by State Representative William “Smitty” Pignatelli, who presented a proclamation from the Massachusetts General Court honoring Joe’s contributions. Smitty also opined that displaying this proclamation in Joe’s car window might prevent him from being cited for future traffic violations. Smitty then conducted a brief, impromptu “town meeting,” during which he pledged to work for the repeal of the law restricting Cultural Council membership as being unfair to small

towns that have a limited number of people to fill many positions.

This was the first time that the Elihu Burritt Award has been presented apart from the town fair. The turnout was impressive and enthusiastic, but the hope is that, after a two-year Covid hiatus, Elihu Burritt Day can once again be celebrated. □

Barbara Lowman



Above, Louise Yohalem presents the Elihu Burritt Award to Joe Poindexter.

Right, Smitty Pignatelli presents a proclamation from the State House of Representatives.



photos by Larry Burke



Chair Nancy Barbe presents Wendy Miller with thanks from the Cultural Council for her remarkable efforts in planning Elihu Burritt Day.

### Thank You to Our Contributors:

Lee Backer & Joan Elmer; Sy & Edi Mayerson; Lois & Leo Canger



## Upcoming: Events Calendar for October

**October 1: The Konkapot Big Boys Film Festival**, this event has been postponed to a later date, to be announced.

**October 2: Saturday Science at the New Marlborough Library;** 10:00 a.m. to noon, a free NMLCC-sponsored science exploration with Jane Burke. To enroll, email [janesburke@gmail.com](mailto:janesburke@gmail.com).

**October 2: A Conservation with Simon Winchester;** on his recently published *Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World*; 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House — tickets are \$20. Attendees must be vaccinated and masks are required in the Meeting House.

**October 4: Visiting Nurse Association vaccination clinic for flu and Covid shots;** At Town Hall, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**October 18: Documentary Movie Night;** 6:00 p.m. at the Library, a screening of *Roadrunner: A Film About Anthony Bourdain*. Seating is limited to fifteen, and masks are required. Call for reservations: 229-6668

**October 23: Saturday Science at the New Marlborough Library;** 10:00 a.m. to noon, a free NMCC-sponsored science exploration with Jane Burke. To enroll, email [janesburke@gmail.com](mailto:janesburke@gmail.com).

**October 25: Carved Pumpkin Drop-off;** at the Library in Mill River from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; open to children 14 years and younger. Planning to participate? Call 229-6668 or email [newmarlborough@gmail.com](mailto:newmarlborough@gmail.com).

**October 30: A Halloween Scare, if You Dare;** 4:30 p.m. at the Goodnow Preserve on the Mill River Southfield Road. Face masks and social distancing are required.

## SATURDAY SCIENCE FOR KIDS IS BACK!

“Saturday Science” returns to the New Marlborough Library in October thanks to the support of the New Marlborough Cultural Council. Jane Burke will provide children in first through sixth grades with experiments in the areas of chemistry, physics, biology, geology, and engineering. Children choose to explore the areas that interest them. Meetings will be on October 2 and 23 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Children will work at tables

outside unless there is inclement weather, in which case it will be held socially distanced indoors with masks required. The program is free of charge, and enrollment is limited and pre-registration required. Please contact Jane at [janesburke@gmail.com](mailto:janesburke@gmail.com). If there is not a minimum of six children available in the morning, a switch to an afternoon session will be considered. □



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# THEN & NOW

What follows is another nugget from *New Marlborough Then & Now*, a bi-annual periodical of the Historical Society, published from 1978 through 1997. The author, Thelma Stanton, was born in Clayton in 1911 and graduated from the former New Marlborough High School in 1929. She and her husband Homer, himself a native of New Marlborough, lived in the lovely Mill River home presently owned by Broc and Fiona Kerr. Thelma and Homer were charter members of the New Marlborough Historical Society and shared a lifelong interest in preserving the history of this town. From the Winter, 1990 issue of *New Marlborough Then and Now*:

## BASKETBALL IN MILL RIVER

By Thelma R. Stanton

Early in October we received a call from a gentleman who asked if we could furnish any information concerning basketball teams in Mill River. He said, "The Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield would like to have any material or pictures about the Mill River Boys Club team." And that is what started me working to send them information and do this article.

We, my husband Homer and I, remember the team very well, as Homer played, as did his brother Eldred, who was a star member. The team was called the Mill River Boys Club although the players were from the various villages in the Township of New Marlborough.

The 1928-1929 Mill River Boys Club team won the Tri-state Championship trophy in a league composed of Mill River, Sheffield, Canaan, Connecticut, Salisbury, Connecticut, Millerton, New York, and Amenia, New York. The Great Hall of Mill River Town Hall doubled as the town's basketball court, and was always packed for the weekly games. The teams used the basement to change into their uniforms. There were no shower facilities, and not much heat. The Boys Club uniform was a gold suit trimmed with blue, and their jackets the same colors.

The Town Hall had a fairly large area to play in, and also a raised stage where the officials, timekeeper, and scorekeepers sat in the front row. The back row, sides, and steps were used by the spectators. As you entered the hall you had to buy tickets from someone seated behind a small window that had a grill across it. Behind that area was the coat room and stairs to the basement.

Upstairs, there was a large balcony area with three or four rows of seats. We all tried to get to the hall early so we could get seats in the front row of that balcony. The people who were in the back rows usually stood up on their chairs when the game got very exciting. The balcony has long since been closed off and the stairs relocated.

Many times there would be games during which a "pick up" teams of local boys would play. During one particularly exciting game in which Lester Stannard was playing, he got into a fight. His father was sitting up in the balcony, and when the fighting started he jumped off the balcony to help his son in the fray. He broke his heel when he landed, which stopped the fight and the game



The 1928 Tri-State Champions. Eldred Stanton is front and center, holding the ball, and his brother Homer is behind him, second from the left. Photo courtesy of the Historical Society

while Mr. Stannard was taken to his home. The games were a bit rough at times, but we loved it and encouraged the players with lots of applause.

The picture of the 1928-1928 championship team, shown with its trophy, was sent to the Basketball Hall of Fame. We received a letter of thanks from Mr. Wayne Patterson, Research Specialist at the Hall of Fame, thanking us for the information and materials, which he said, "will forever be a part of the world's only Basketball Hall of Fame." Of the original Boys Club team, four members are still living at this time, December 30, 1989. □



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## LAND TRUST NEWS

Ian Devine, President of the New Marlborough Land Trust, has issued the following press release:

The New Marlborough Land Trust announced that Silvia Eggenberger, a long-time Land Trust Treasurer and Board member, will succeed Martha Bryan as executive director on November 1. Martha Bryan has led the Land Trust for eighteen years.

Sylvia Eggenberger, born and raised on a dairy farm in Mill River, notes her family was “farm to table” long before it became fashionable. Silvia’s nearly thirty-year professional career – senior staff positions with Bard College at Simon’s Rock, Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health, and Berkshire School – have sharpened her organizational and development skills.

“Silvia is a great fit for the Land Trust. She grew up with dirt under her fingernails, and she has strong leadership abilities,” said Ian Devine, president of the Land Trust Board. “We are delighted that someone with Silvia’s expertise and local knowledge was already part of the Land Trust.”

“Martha Bryan has been the driving force behind the Land Trust for nearly two decades,” said Mr. Devine. “Because of Martha, more land is protected and more people than ever are enjoying Land Trust properties. Martha’s work has benefited the entire community immeasurably.”

The New Marlborough Land Trust’s core mission is to protect lands of conservation value for the benefit of residents and the general public. Land Trust properties consist of open fields, forests, wetlands, riparian lands along the Konkapot and Umpachene Rivers, wildlife habitat, and agricultural land. The Land Trust owns and manages approximately 900 acres of land containing miles of public hiking trails. □



photo courtesy New Marlborough Land Trust

Sylvia Eggenberger

**Books in Bags:** The \$5 Book Sale on September 4 at the Library (in lieu of the annual Burritt Day book sale) was a success. Librarian Deb O’Brien says, “The sale went well! It was a beautiful day and the Friends of the Library made \$530!” That translates to 106 sales, an impressive number for a sidewalk sale in tiny Mill River. Customers of all ages report that opening up the brown paper bags of books was a little like receiving an unexpected birthday present, and kids were delighted by the surprise of a brand new pile of picture books and chapter stories landing in their laps.

Photo by Larry Burke



## -- CIVIL WAR MONUMENT UPDATE --

David Hastings and his colleagues continue to work on the accuracy of the names of New Marlborough veterans of the Civil War. He has detected one or two misspelled names in the list that was published in the September issue of the NM5VN, and he is hoping that readers will inform him of any other corrections they spot. In addition, if anyone has knowledge of veterans who are not included, please let him know.

David can be reached at 413-229-3086 or marydavidhastings@aol.com



## NEIGHBORS



Saturday, September 11, dawned with the same perfect weather as twenty years ago – cloudless bright blue sky with brilliant sunshine – but without the shocking contrast of the events in New York City, Washington D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania that day. New Marlborough marked the anniversary with a simple remembrance. **Barry and Marjorie Shapiro** rang the bell at the New Marlborough Meeting House for a minute each at 9:59 and 10:28, marking when the World Trade Center towers fell; **Robert Olsen** did the same at the Southfield Church. Simple though it was, all three found it a very emotional experience.

**David Hastings**, of Southfield, described five groups of people who are remembered on this day: On September 11 each year, we remember the people whose lives were lost or changed forever. First, we remember the approximately 3,000 totally innocent souls that were stolen that day while just doing their jobs in one of the buildings attacked. This included those who worked in the World Trade Center towers or Pentagon, those on the hijacked planes, and those who were in the vicinity of the towers, struck by falling debris. The second group included those who sacrificed their lives while trying to save others. These heroes included the brave police, fire, and emergency services personnel, as well as the civilians who thought not of their own survival, but rather, focused on saving as many people as possible, helping them to escape from the doomed buildings. The heroic passengers who stepped up to stop the attack on the United States Capitol did so knowing that they probably would not survive. The fourth group of people included those who supported the rescue operations in so many ways. While many of these are still alive today, hundreds sustained lung damage or other injuries, physical or emotional, that led to their premature deaths. Lastly, we remember the families whose lives were changed forever, suffering tremendous grief at the loss of their loved ones. We must not forget the many lives taken and the lives heroically given after the attack twenty years ago. □

*compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuuell@yahoo.com*

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# WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

photo by Caryn King



Caryn King's neighborly snake

As this column is being written, in the third week in September, the **hummingbirds** have largely moved on to southern and southwestern regions, and the **Canada geese** are in training for their migratory flights. **Hawks** are very active, circling the fields and meadows, singly and in small squadrons, in search of small rodents to fatten themselves up for the coming changes in weather.

So who's sticking around? Well, **snakes**.

Caryn King sent a picture of a very elegantly arranged black snake, along with this note: "This snake has been hanging around close to our house for a couple of weeks. It's about three feet long, and we believe it's a **water snake**. So far it doesn't seem threatening or afraid of us. Not sure you need a snake photo!"

The opaque eyes of the snake may indicate that it is about to shed its skin. As to that possibility, Caryn added, "I'll check for molting skin, but I haven't seen the snake since yesterday's heavy rain. I actually do not like snakes and stay away from them, but I look for this one every day now, and not seeing it this morning was not good. He/she just gave off a peaceful feeling and I knew not to worry. Maybe I will see it tomorrow!"

On September 18, **John and Rebecca Schreiber** came across "a large, several-foot-long **black rat snake** on North Road. We nudged it off the road with a stick so it wouldn't get run over."

Black snakes can be tough to identify. While the northern water snake is commonly distinguishable by a range of dark patterns and colors, it can sometimes appear to be virtually black. The snake that hangs out around the King's home could very well be a water snake, or it could be a rat snake. If the one that the Schriebers saw is a rat snake, then they did the right thing by saving the snake from the possibility of getting run over. In Massachusetts, the black rat snake, which is the largest snake in the state, is listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, and, as such, is illegal to kill, harass, or possess as a pet.


Bravo to the human neighbors who look out for and protect our flora and fauna! □

Compiled by Larry Burke. Send your sightings to him at [larryjburke@gmail.com](mailto:larryjburke@gmail.com)



photo by John Schreiber

A black snake encountered on North Road



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# THE LOG

## Police Department (selected entries)

- Aug. 1 9:40 a.m. A Cagney Hill caller reports an injured bear on his property.
- 10:59 a.m. A resident complains of Southfield Store customers partially parked on East Hill Road.
- Aug. 2 1:32 p.m. The animal control officer is called after a visitor to East Hill Road reports a dog loose on Route 183.
- 8:30 p.m. Report of heavy smoke in Hartsville Village is determined to be an attempt to ward off mosquitoes from an outdoor party.
- 8:40 p.m. An officer assists in removing a bat from a Sisson Hill residence.
- Aug. 5 6:34 p.m. A civil citation is issued to a driver after his vehicle, stopped on Hartsville New Marlborough Road, is determined to smell of marijuana smoke.
- Aug. 6 7:39 p.m. EMS is called to transport a rider on Hartsville Mill River Road to Fairview Hospital following an injury in a fall from her horse.
- Aug. 7 12:57 p.m. An officer assists in issuing a no trespass order to an individual following a disagreement in Sheffield.
- 6:22 p.m. A cow is reported loose on Brewer Branch Road.
- Aug. 8 5:20 p.m. Following a complaint by a Lake Buel area resident that a boat trailer is parked on his property, his new neighbor, explaining she mistakenly thought she owned the property under the trailer, removes it.
- Aug. 10 7:10 p.m. A Clayton Mill River Road resident reports that a bear has broken into her garage to dine on the garbage awaiting disposal there.
- 9:02 p.m. "Suspicious" flashlight beams emanating from the Konkapot River where it parallels Canaan Southfield Road are determined to be coming from floodlights newly installed at a neighbor's house.
- Aug. 13 4:11 p.m. A resident complains of cars speeding past her residence in Mill River village.
- 6:57 p.m. A deer, injured in a collision with a car on Norfolk Road, is dispatched by an officer.
- Aug. 15 12:22 a.m. A driver reports colliding with a stone wall on Norfolk Road.
- 10:17 a.m. Following up on a caller's concern that a tree near his Rhoades and Bailey Road residence seems likely to fall and hit an adjacent power line, an officer determines that the tree is not a hazard at this time.
- 3:54 p.m. A Canaan Southfield Road resident reports a deceased deer lying at the foot of his neighbor's driveway.
- 9:54 p.m. A caller reports a car weaving over the center line and speeding past his residence on Route 57 east of New Marlborough village.
- Aug. 18 6:12 p.m. An investigation of smoke emanating from a Stratford Road residence determines that the cause is burnt sausage.
- Aug. 19 9:06 a.m. A motorist collides with a utility pole at the intersection of Rhoades and Bailey and Canaan Southfield Roads.
- 9:09 a.m. The animal control officer helps evacuate a bat from a Sisson Hill Road residence.
- 10:12 a.m. An officer removes a fallen branch blocking the south lane of Canaan Southfield Road.
- Aug. 21 11:23 a.m. National Grid notified of a tree on wires at the north end of Brewer Hill Road.
- 2:50 p.m. National Grid notified of a tree on wires on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Aug. 22 8:20 a.m. A Sheffield cattle owner agrees to remediate damage — hoof marks in the lawn, cow pies in the yard — to a Brewer Hill Road residence.
- 12:29 p.m. Responding to a caller concerned about the rising level of river water in the Konkapot at a residence he is visiting on Hartsville New Marlborough Road, an officer suggests that, among other measures, all vehicles be moved away from the river bank.
- 3:10 p.m. A caller reports a large tree down on Mill River Southfield Road.
- Aug. 23 1:20 p.m. A caller reports a tree down on the east end of East Hill Road.
- 3:18 p.m. The Highway Department is notified after an officer reports that a large pine tree has fallen and taken down wires on Shunpike Road.
- 9:12 p.m. A caller reports nine sheep wandering Hayes Hill Road.
- Aug. 24 8:08 a.m. An officer changes a flat tire for a driver whose car is disabled on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 2:30 p.m. Downed tree blocking Norfolk Road at its intersection with Hotchkiss Road.



- 5:26 p.m. A driver reports he has slid off a washed-out section of Idle Hour Road.
- Aug. 25 3:16 p.m. A caller reports that a hiker is walking a private trail off Hartsville Mill River Road.
- Aug. 26 2:13 p.m. National Grid alerted to a tree on wires on Brewer Branch Road.
- Aug. 27 8:21 a.m. National Grid notified of a tree on wires on Rhoades and Bailey Road.

- 3:45 p.m. A caller reports gun shots in an area off Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Aug. 28 3:08 p.m. A driver hits and kills a deer on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Aug. 29 3:15 p.m. A Clayton resident expresses appreciation for Department assistance in reaching Spectrum to correct a faulty telephone hookup.

*Graham Frank, Chief of Police*

## FIRE AND RESCUE

- Aug. 6 1:59 p.m. Hartsville Mill River Road Medical Call
- Aug. 7 11:09 a.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Bike Crash
- Aug. 7 6:07 p.m. East Hill Road Medical Call
- Aug. 7 8:51 p.m. East Hill Road Medical Call
- Aug. 8 7:59 a.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm
- Aug. 8 5:55 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
- Aug. 9 8:47 a.m. Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Medical Call
- Aug. 9 12:57 p.m. East Hill Road Medical Call
- Aug. 12 10:03 p.m. Stratford Road Fire Alarm
- Aug. 15 12:33 a.m. Norfolk Road Medical Call
- Aug. 15 5:22 p.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
- Aug. 16 7:48 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
- Aug. 17 7:33 p.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call
- Aug. 18 2:23 p.m. Shunpike Road Medical Call
- Aug. 19 9:06 a.m. Rhoades and Bailey Road MVA
- Aug. 21 12:30 a.m. Shunpike Road Medical Call
- Aug. 21 11:18 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
- Aug. 23 4:45 a.m. Sisson Hill Road Medical Call
- Aug. 23 2:47 p.m. Hartsville Mill River Road CO Alarm
- Aug. 23 5:30 p.m. Mutual Aid to Monterey Standby Fire
- Aug. 24 5:21 p.m. Foley Hill Road Fire Alarm
- Aug. 25 5:03 a.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
- Aug. 25 12:33 p.m. Stratford Road Medical Call
- Aug. 26 6:03 a.m. Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Medical Call
- Aug. 26 2:50 p.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Fire Alarm
- Aug. 26 4:59 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm
- Aug. 26 6:00 p.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Standby Medical
- Aug. 27 10:24 a.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
- Aug. 27 3:10 p.m. Norfolk Road Fire Alarm
- Aug. 28 5:10 a.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
- Aug. 29 3:50 p.m. New Marlborough Hill Road Fire Alarm
- Aug. 29 6:09 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
- Aug. 30 1:55 p.m. Red Fox Road Service Call
- Aug. 30 1:57 p.m. Underwood Road Medical Call
- Aug. 31 12:59 p.m. Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Fire Alarm



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# THE SCHOOL REPORT

The importance of teaching young children has come to national attention, as evidenced in President Biden's remarks last April, in which he said, "When this nation made twelve years of public education universal in the last century, it made us the best-educated and best-prepared nation in the world. Now the world is catching up. They are not waiting. Twelve years is no longer enough to compete in the 21st Century. Expanding access to early education could boost many young children's chances of later graduating from high school and going to college."

This was not news to the Early Childhood Task Force at Southern Berkshire Regional School District, where work was already underway to expand early childhood programs this fall. By June, its plan was presented to the School Committee for approval. Sandi Hubbard, director of student services, explained how her team of educators developed a plan for a free, full-day Pre-Kindergarten program with four classrooms that would increase capacity to serve fifty-one children between the ages of 2.9 and 6.11 years, which is more than three times the number served in neighboring school districts. This is a change from last year, which offered only half-day programs for forty-two students. She said that the program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and receives government support because it provides early intervention through classrooms that bring together students with



and without identified developmental delays. Pre-K children are screened in the areas of communication, fine and gross motor skills, and general early academic aptitude. In each classroom half of the children have been identified as needing help in at least one of these areas. This integration of children of varying abilities has been found to benefit all of the students. She also informed the Committee that, with the full-day option, teachers would have time to implement the highly regarded curriculum developed by the Boston Public Schools called Focus on Pre-K. It lays out an integrated scope and sequence of skill and conceptual development, including exploring topics in art, science, and human relationships.



Above, the Pre-K classroom at NMC; below, teacher Jaimi-Lyn Scheib on the NMC playground photos by Jane Burke

After approval from the School Committee preparations began. Over the summer the rooms were renovated. The three returning Pre-K teachers, Kim Bleau, Brenda VandeBogart, and Jaimi-Lyn Schieb, were joined by Carrere Tirrell to learn more about the Focus approach. It includes weekly units of study of concepts connected with family, friends, color, light, wind and water, and things that grow. These teachers know that

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learning requirements for kindergarten now look more like the former first grade expectations. Their task is to make sure their younger learners are prepared for these challenges.

By mid-September, both teachers and students were enthusiastic about the changes. Jaimi-lyn Sheib at New Marlborough Central, who has taught Pre-K for six years, shared her thoughts: "Now that students are staying until the end of the day, 2:40 p.m. versus 11:30 a.m., there is time for specialists to bring music, Spanish, physical education, art, and library. We have time for small-group focus on the individual student's needs. It's not just about learning skills like how to use scissors. We spend a lot of time playing. Research has shown that play is the number one indicator for success in the future. Being able to play with others and solve problems prepares them for life. You are not always going to like what is going on. Coping with that is an important skill."

A visit to Kim Bleau's classroom at Undermountain Elementary School found students enjoying a "special" in progress. Yoga teacher Margaret Layton comes twice a week to help children develop motor skills and relaxation. Children played with balls of putty to build their small motor skills,



Yoga time with Margaret Layton at Kim Bleau's Pre-K Undermountain classroom

photo by Jane Burke



An NMC Pre-K student exploring the interaction of soap and water  
photo by Jaimi-Lyn Schieb

tried complex standing postures, and laid on the floor for a final relaxation exercise listening to the mantra, "Nothing to do, nothing to think, do nothing, it's good for you." Mrs. Bleau was enthusiastic that her room now had tiled floors that allowed for art making and other activities outlined in the new curriculum.

Superintendent Beth Regulbuto is very pleased with the rollout of the new program. There is a waiting list of "role model" students and there are spaces waiting for expected referrals from parents and The Pediatric Development Center for children turning three over the next few months. She predicted that by the end of October the team will have a sense of how children are responding to the Focus on Pre-K approach. She said, "I expect that we will then be ready to convene the Early Childhood Task Force to consider next steps in the District's efforts to focus on the needs of our youngest learners." □

Jane Burke,  
Chair, SBRSD School Committee



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*Beautiful World, Where Are You?* by Sally Rooney   
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### Adult Nonfiction

*This is Your Mind on Plants*, by Michael Pollan  
*Easy Bread: 100 No-Knead Recipes*, by Judith Fertig  
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*Who Sewed to Survive*, by Lucy Adlington   
*Jew-ish: Reinvented Recipes from a Modern Mensch*, by Jake Cohen

### Children's Fiction

*Einstein: the Fantastic Journey of a Mouse*  
*Through Space and Time*, by Torben Kuhlmann  
*Narwhal's School of Awesomeness*, by Ben Clanton  
*Friends Forever*, by Shannon Hale

## 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



## Documentary Movie Night October 18, 6:00 p.m.

The New Marlborough Library will be screening *Roadrunner: a Film About Anthony Bourdain*. Seating is limited to 15 people and masks are required.

To reserve your seat, call or write:  
 413-229-6668  
 newmarlborough@gmail.com

## CALLING ALL PUMPKIN CARVERS!



The New Marlborough Library is looking for children 14 years and younger to carve and decorate pumpkins at their homes and then drop them off at the library **Monday, October 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** All pumpkins will be displayed in front of the library. If you plan to participate please contact the library at 413-229-6668/newmarlborough@gmail.com

## YOU'RE INVITED TO A HALLOWEEN SCARE COME AND JOIN US... IF YOU DARE!

Bonfire ☺ Refreshments ☺ Cupcakes ☺ Storyteller John Porcino

Saturday, October 30, at 4:30 p.m. at the Goodnow Preserve, 442 Mill River Southfield Rd.

Directions: Starting at the library on Mill River Great Barrington Road, take a left at the stop sign, pass Town Hall, and follow Mill River Southfield Road. for one mile. Your scary destination will be on the right. **In case of rain, we will move to the Meeting House in New Marlborough Village.**

This program is sponsored by **The New Marlborough Friends of the Library**, the **New Marlborough Historical Society**, and the **New Marlborough Land Trust**. Due to Covid 19 and the Delta Variant, we ask that all attendees wear face masks and practice social distancing.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT THE LIBRARY AT 229-6668 OR NEWMARLBOROUGH@GMAIL.COM



## Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Building Inspector:** Monday 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. or by appointment.

**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 — if and when it re-opens:

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., Tues and Thurs 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:** Cassie Keeley, (413) 429-7603

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

**Town Hall:** 229-8116

**Police:** Business office: 229-8161

**Library:** 229-6668

### Transfer Station Hours:

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

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

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

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

### NM5VN Editorial Team

Larry Burke, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Robbi Hartt, Barbara Lowman, David Lowman, Steven Nester, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Rachel Perera Weingeist.

Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger, Fiona Kerr,

### NM5VN Board of Directors

Roy Blount, Jr., Larry Burke, Barbara Lowman, Deb O'Brien, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Nan O'Shaughnessy Smith, and Tara White

### New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

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**[www.nm5vn.org](http://www.nm5vn.org)**

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All copy must be submitted no later than October 17.

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

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