



New Marlborough 5 Village News

VOL XXIII
NO 6
October 2022

Clayton ♦ Hartsville ♦ Mill River ♦ New Marlborough ♦ Southfield

RENOVATE OR RELOCATE WHITHER THE TOWN HALL?

By Joe Poindexter

The federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires all public buildings be accessible to people with disabilities. The New Marlborough Town Hall is not. Stairs to the main entrance cannot be negotiated by a wheelchair; the ramp outside the north wall is too steep; the bathrooms fall short of ADA standards; even door handles do not comply.

In 2020, the Select Board re-embarked on the long and complex project of redressing these short-comings. It hired EDM, a Pittsfield architectural consultant, which offered two approaches to renovating the current Town Hall: 1) close off the upstairs meeting room to all but employees and squeeze in a small meeting space among the offices on the ground level, or 2) install an elevator from the ground floor to the main room. The cost for ADA compliance alone would range between \$300,000 to almost \$500,000. Needed upgrades to plumbing and electrical systems and structural improvements and addressing other repairs, such as a leaks in the slate roof, insulation, window replacements, and removal of asbestos would add substantial costs to the total renovation. The plan that included an elevator, which is the one preferred by the Town Hall Committee, exceeded \$2 million in 2020 dollars. Adjusting for price inflation would raise the cost of retaining the present Town Hall to upwards of \$3 million, although this number is still being verified.



photo by Larry Burke

Would it be more cost efficient to convert another structure in town? Should a completely new town hall be built from the ground up? These are questions that have been put before the newly formed Town Hall Planning Committee (THPC). The Committee, comprised of Rona Easton, Mari Enoch, Bob Hartt, Richard Long, and Barbara Marchione, introduced themselves to each other at their initial meeting August 2. Ms. Easton is an architect who has had a practice since 2004; Ms. Enoch, as town administrator,

continued

INSIDE:

Select Board	4
Conservation Commission	10
Upcoming	11
Cassilis Farm	12
Neighbors	14
Wildlife Neighbors	15
Land Trust	16
Recipe of the Month	17
The Log	18
School News	20
Library News	22



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

Bonfire 🦉 Hayrides 🦉 Refreshments 🦉 Storytelling 🦉 Mystery Guests

October 29 at 4:30 pm

at the Goodnow Preserve 422 Mill River Southfield Road

In case of rain, we will move to the Meeting House in New Marlborough Village.

Program sponsored by: New Marlborough Friends of the Library and the New Marlborough Historical Society
Special thanks to the New Marlborough Fire Department and the New Marlborough Land Trust

For more information contact the library; 413-229-6668/newmarlborough@gmail.com



would act as the Committee's procurement officer; Mr. Hartt, a member of the Planning Board, has been active in commercial real estate; Mr. Long has served on numerous Town committees, including Broadband, Housing, Roadway, Planning, and Finance, and for three years as a selectman; Ms. Marchione, who has served as an emergency responder with the Fire Department, studied the Town Hall as a member of an earlier ADA committee.

After electing Richard Long as chairman, the Committee reviewed the three options, noted the advantages of a one-floor building, the need for electronic storage, space for parking, and considered the desirability of retaining the location of the town hall in a village center. At Mr. Hartt's suggestion, the Committee decided it should solicit opinion from town residents. With a second meeting scheduled for August 28, the meeting was adjourned.

At the August 28 meeting, the option of buying vacant property and building a new town hall from the ground up was deemed significantly more expensive than the other two and was dismissed. Some Committee members made clear their preference for an option that arose some weeks ago: the purchase of Les Trois Emme Winery, a five-acre property on the corner of Mill River Great Barrington and Knight Roads that was put up for sale some two years ago by owners Mary Jane and Wayne Eline.

Meeting again on September 15, members revealed varying enthusiasms for the winery as a town hall. Mr. Long pointed to an architectural study showing that the winery's main building could be repurposed with an administrative office, a meeting room, a work area, a storage area, a reception, small kitchen, bathrooms and filing room, and a space of sufficient size to accommodate up to seven work stations. The side building could be divided into a meeting area with seating for up to fifty people, a kitchen area (for senior services), and an office for the Police Department;



Map of New Marlborough showing the locations of the existing Town Hall in Mill River and the one under consideration at Les Trois Emme Winery, at the northwest corner of town

or if the Police Department moved to Southfield, the open area could also serve as an emergency evacuation center. The acreage surrounding the property could eventually be converted to a town park with recreational uses. In comparison to other options, said Mr. Long, "Nothing else comes close to the relatively low cost and ease of repurposing."

A decision on whether to renovate the present Town Hall or repurpose the winery has run into time pressure. The winery has attracted a bid from a buyer, so the Town does not have forever to make a



OFFICE & STUDIO SPACE

High Speed Fiber Optic Internet

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

FOR AVAILABILITY, CONTACT:
413-229-3576

counteroffer. An exacerbating element is the public procurement process, a lengthy procedure requiring issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) that normally must be followed in the pursuit of such acquisitions by a Massachusetts municipality. Mr. Long proposed that the Town seek an exemption as provided in the law that can be allowed when the property under consideration is unique and time is of the essence.

The prospect of an accelerated process elicited concern from Mr. Hartt. "I would not want to appear to be railroading this decision," he said. He urged his earlier recommendation that the Committee hear from town residents on what direction to take. Ms. Marchione, saying "We will have to agree to disagree," ran down a list of shortcomings in the present Town Hall, including problems with the roof, the electrical system, the plumbing, the presence of asbestos, and possible oil-tank contamination — all, of course, in addition to ADA compliance. Later she mentioned structural problems with the balcony overlooking the main hall and noted the adventurous challenge of ascending the outside staircase to reach it.

As the meeting neared the two-hour mark, Committee members agreed they would push forward with a number of initiatives simultaneously in the hope that a town meeting on the matter could be held before yearend. These initiatives include:

- Updating estimates of renovating the Town Hall

versus repurposing Les Tres Emme Winery to reflect costs that would be incurred assuming the projects began in June 2023;

- Working out an option to purchase the winery, which would be presented to the Elines by the Select Board;
- Writing and publishing in the Central Register a determination letter of explanation as to why this property is unique in what it offers the Town, such that an exemption from the usual RFP process for purchase of a town hall property is warranted;
- Creation and dissemination of an information pamphlet explaining the choices under consideration and a survey to elicit residents' opinion on a future town hall (Mr. Long asked Committee members to submit questions to him for consolidation);
- Scheduling a Special Town Meeting for a citizen vote on the matter and, separately, a vote on whether to exempt any debt incurred by a town hall project from the 2-1/2 percent limit on annual tax increases.

Renovate or repurpose? Getting to an answer will be a juggling act such as New Marlborough town governance has seldom undertaken. □

RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 6 VOTE

In the special election for Town offices, for the Select Board position Bill West had a clear victory over Dan Alden, 328 to 134.

In the two other offices, Jane Fucillo won a place on the Finance Committee with 342 votes and Christian Stovall was elected to the Planning Board with 342.


As to Question #1 on setting bond payments for the Capital Road Projects outside the provisions of Proposition 2 & 1/2, the vote was 279 in favor, 155 against. □

COOK BUILDERS
Superb Craftsmanship

All Phases of Building & Remodeling
New Home Construction, Additions & Renovations

CALL TODAY: (413) 229-2793

Serving the Tri-State area for over 45 years





BILMAR
VETERINARY SERVICES

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

Town Business Is Your Business SELECT BOARD



August 29: With a dozen or more townspeople on hand to explain or defend various elements of the evening's agenda, the meeting got underway with a request from Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman to purchase a new compactor. "Our compactor," said Mr. Friedman, referring to the Transfer Station unit that receives unrecyclable garbage, "is shot." In the hope that the current unit, a used compactor installed twelve years ago, could be salvaged, Mr. Friedman discovered that its two metal boxes had rusted beyond repair and that the compactor's pistons were no longer functioning. With very little separating the cost of repair and price of replacement, Mr. Friedman sought — and received — the Board's blessing on the acquisition of a new compactor. The cost: \$33,321, most of which would come from funds available in the Transfer Station's repair account.

The meeting moved on to another large financial item: Cassilis Farm. A year ago, the town's newly reawakened Housing Committee was focused on the conversion of Cassilis, then up for sale, into thirteen affordable living units. Partnered with Construct, the non-profit that has created low-cost housing in Great Barrington, to purchase Cassilis, the Committee received a commitment from the Board to devote half of the \$426,000 coming to the town under the pandemic-spurred American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Construct's offer was rejected, and its bid at a mortgage-default auction in July fell short. In August, however, perseverance paid off. The winning bidder backed away, and Construct, the under-bidder at \$625,000, was offered Cassilis. Construct put down \$40,000 to go to contract and then turned to New Marlborough to make good on its commitment.

Housing Committee Chair Elizabeth Rosenberg reviewed the history of the Cassilis acquisition and reminded the Board of its year-ago promise of ARPA dollars. Committee member Richard Long said that the ARPA money was a "linchpin" of future fund-raising and essential to the pursuit of state grants, which required matching funds from grant-recipient towns. The conversion, said Mr. Long, "will be a true benefit to the town, to its young people, its hospitality workers, its other laborers."

To a question raised by Selectman Tara White as to whether the property's well water could pass muster with the Board of Health, Construct Housing Director June Wolfe said an engineering study had signed off on the quality of the water. Committee member Will Regan noted that the ironically named Dry Hill, on which both his company and Cassilis are situated, "is loaded with water."

In response to further concerns expressed by Ms. White and Select Board Chairman Mark Carson, Ms. Wolfe said that two of the Cassilis properties would remain on the tax rolls in the form of a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes). The third, an empty lot, might be bought by an adjoining property owner. Back taxes of \$70,000 would be paid. Construct Executive Director Jane Ralph said that the Commonwealth was now "very invested in providing affordable housing, particularly in rural areas," and that a project in New Marlborough could serve as a bell-weather for other towns. Paul Marcel rose to convey the enthusiastic support for the project of the Planning Board, of which he is a member. "It is the right thing to do," he said.

Finally, with Mr. Carson's fears over an unforeseen event thwarting the project allayed — "Construct has never failed to complete a project," said Ms. Wolfe —



11 East Main Street, PO Box 628 Salisbury, Connecticut 06068

DOWNING LANE, PC

— ATTORNEYS AT LAW —

623 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

TEL: (413) 528-5040
FAX: (413) 528-5095

COURTNEY S. LANE
COURTNEY@DOWNINGLANE.COM

the Board voted to confirm the payment of \$217,903 (half New Marlborough's ARPA funds of \$435,806) toward the purchase of Cassilis Farm for the purpose of providing affordable housing. (See Page 12 for further details on the Cassilis Farm purchase.)

Police Chief Graham Frank, on hand to discuss departmental administration, said that he wanted to offer Kaiden Shapiroff the position of permanent part-time officer at thirty-two hours a week. Town Administrator Mari Enoch asked if a waiver would be needed, since Mr. Shapiroff had not attended a police academy. Chief Frank said the requirement did not apply to part-time officers. The Board agreed to offer the position to Mr. Shapiroff contingent on his passing a physical exam. Moving on, Chief Frank asked that he be permitted to use funds earmarked for an administrative assistant — the position remains unfilled since the resignation of Tracy Stoddard — to cover the cost of a Monday night shift. The Board granted the request, with the provision that the search continue for an administrative assistant.

Next, the Board returned to administration of the duties of the animal control officer (ACO), an issue precipitated by the resignation of Cassie Keeley. There has been general agreement that the office should be placed under the authority of the Police Department. The Board postponed to its meeting of September 12 the questions of whether the ACO salary should be placed in the Police Department budget and whether to add ACO duties to those of the chief.

Tara White agreed to attend, as the Town's representative, a September 22 meeting of the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization, which has been tasked with developing a vision for the deployment of federal and state transportation funds in the county. To forestall a possible conflict-of-

interest issue, the Board agreed to designate members of the Town Hall Planning Committee as special municipal employees. Member Rona Easton is an architect, whose decisions, without this designation, could be attacked as possibly self-serving.

The selectmen approved a one-day alcohol license for the New Marlborough Land Trust's Goodnow Preserve bash on September 24 and signed off on an application for a Community Compact Grant, which would be used to upgrade software for the processing of dog licenses, Transfer Station permits, and on-line assessor mapping.

Finishing up, Ms. Enoch notified the Board that Zachary Reynolds had been hired by the Fire Department and would serve for fewer than twenty hours a week. Ms. White, as one of three New Marlborough representatives to the 8 Town School District Consolidation Planning Board, reported that the Board was seeking \$15,000 from each of the member towns to meet budgetary needs to the end of the year. She then said it was her belief that the two districts have unallocated funds — \$70,000 at Southern Berkshire and \$105,000 at Berkshire Hills. She and Mr. Carson agreed to ask the districts to use those funds to cover the shortfall.

Joe Poindexter

September 12: After a 5:45 p.m. meeting in executive session "for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to litigation," the Board convened its regular, weekly meeting at 6:12 p.m. This was the first regular meeting with the newly-elected selectman, Bill West, present. It was also the first meeting of a full, three-person Board since the resignation of Dan Alden in June.

To accommodate the schedule of Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, the Board agreed to address agenda items out of order, putting Mr.

"Our compactor," said Mr. Friedman, referring to the Transfer Station unit that receives unrecyclable garbage, "is shot."




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

**Heating Systems and Repairs , Oil tanks,
Chimney Liners, and Air Conditioning**

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



James "Jesse" Lane
Southfield, MA 01259
413-229-2370
Independentheating@gmail.com

License# BU 056967 MA
License# 31674 MA

Loring's updates first, beginning with the status of Route 57 paving. **Mr. Loring reported that Brian Shook of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation confirmed that the state will repair all gravel and asphalt aprons of driveways along the stretch from the Monterey town line to Stone Manor Drive.** Earlier in the year, this stretch had been repaved by the state as part of their Municipal Pavement Program, resulting in some issues with transitions between driveways and the road. Though apron repair was in the scope of work presented by MassDOT, they had been indicating that they were renegeing on this aspect of the job. Mr. Loring and Chairman Carson have persisted, and apparently prevailed. Additionally, the quality of the line painting was questioned but will not be pursued by the Board or the Highway Department.

A discussion of trucks and other equipment was centered around issues of service delays and lack of product availability. Service takes months, delivery of a truck ordered two years ago is delayed, mechanics are unavailable, and the Town lost some of its in-house capability with the resignation of a crew member last year. **On the positive side of equipment news, Mr. Loring mentioned that used equipment is selling at high prices and suggested that the Board sell the old Transfer Station compactor, rather than scrap it.** Town Administrator Mari Enoch suggested that to do so will require the Board to declare it as surplus at a future meeting.

As for roads, Mr. Loring reported the completion of six culverts on the paved portion of Knight Road, as well as patching to get through the winter. He intends to replace another three culverts on the gravel portion of the road. It will be ready to be reconstructed in the spring. Rather than borrowing for culvert replacement, as originally intended, Mr. Loring used

Roads & Bridges funds. He made this choice because the availability of borrowed funds and the appropriate season for the work were misaligned. He also solved a water drainage issue on Cross to Canaan Valley Road to the satisfaction of a homeowner whose road frontage was affected.

Responding to a request sent in by Police Chief Graham Frank, the Board decided to draft a letter to Robert Jacquier, owner of Laurelbrook Farm in Canaan, Connecticut, and farmer of corn fields on Clayton Mill River Road. At issue is years of undermining the road, going back approximately eleven years. The harrows are run very close to the road surface,

eroding the shoulder and causing the edge of the pavement to break. The farm trucks entering and exiting the fields further exacerbate the problem by doing this in random locations, rather than those constructed for the purpose. Ms. Enoch will present a draft letter at a future meeting.

A contract for the police chief to take on the additional duty of animal control Officer for annual compensation of \$5,748.70 was put on hold until a time when the chief can be present to answer questions. In an earlier meeting, the Board determined that shifting these duties to Chief Frank is the best option because the police usually respond to animal control calls, as they are received through emergency dispatch and are within the purview of the police department. Once the chief is present, he can confirm or correct that contracts put in place with the former Animal Control Officer will remain in effect.

The Board then unanimously authorized Chairman Carson to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Great Barrington for the "use of Great Barrington Police Lock-up and Breath Testing equipment" for the fiscal year 2023. The basic terms consist of a per-diem

The winning bidder backed away, and Construct, the under-bidder at \$625,000, was offered Cassilis.



WEBSTER
design landscape horticulture

413-229-8124 websterlandscapes.com Sheffield, MA

**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



charge of \$150 per day per person. Such an agreement has been in place for many years, is used very little, and the terms are the same as the past year.

The agenda item given the greatest urgency and amount of time for discussion was, as in the August 29 meeting, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for Construct, Inc., relating to the Cassilis Farm property. The Board desires both a grant agreement and a Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with Construct. This is complicated by Construct's urgent need of funds to close the purchase of the Cassilis property on Monday, September 26. With little time to draft and present agreements, Ms. Enoch suggested using Great Barrington's version of a grant agreement as a template, and arranging a meeting later this week to review. Rather than rush a PILOT agreement, the Board decided that the grant agreement will include a requirement for Construct to form a PILOT agreement with the Town by a date to be determined.

The focus of the Board's discussion of the grant agreement was on standards, timeline, and reporting to which Construct must conform. Mr. Carson expressed concern about conformance with building codes, zoning by-laws, and general by-laws. Ms. Enoch noted that, since the project provides Chapter 40B Affordable Housing, some exemptions apply. It was surmised that the project will be exempt from conformance to zoning by-laws, but will require conformance with building code and general by-laws. This will need to be verified by town counsel. No special permit will be required for this project, but a process with the Zoning Board of Appeals will be necessary. The ZBA will not have the ability to deny the project but will have the ability to place contingencies on it. There were also questions raised about what will be deemed "success" or "completion" of the project in the grant agreement

and, if the project is not completed, how and when will funds be returned. No resolution on these issues was reached.

The desire for a PILOT agreement is to ensure the Town will continue to have a revenue stream from the property. Because Construct is a not-for-profit organization, it can request an exemption from paying property taxes. Though likely to be exempt, non-profit organizations can voluntarily offer to pay an annual amount through a PILOT agreement. Construct has expressed intent, but Board members' recollection of the intent varied.

The Board has committed \$217,903 of ARPA funds to Construct, Inc. for this project, and this accounts for one half of the ARPA funds granted to New Marlborough. The remaining funds have yet to be allocated. The allocation of these funds is solely at the discretion of the Select Board. Three quarters of the payments have been received by New Marlborough, and the Town has until December of 2024 to award the funds and until December 2026 to disburse them.


An adjacent concern was raised by Ms. Enoch at the conclusion of this discussion: the Zoning Board of Appeals currently has only two of the three required members. She strongly recommended that the Board seek another member, as well as an alternate. The current members are Sharon Fleck and Courtney Turner.

A request for funding of the Regional School District Planning Board was tabled at the request of that Board's chair, Lucy Prashker. In a message to the Board, Ms. Prashker said there is an alternate possibility of funding from the state in October.

A commitment to electronic voting at Town Meetings was made when the Board decided to recommend the Finance Committee approve the use


The discussion of trucks and other equipment was centered around issues of service delays and lack of product availability.

(413) 229-2544
Free Estimates



Roofing
Tiling
Decks
Porches
Sheet Rocking
Flooring
Additions
Odd Jobs

Herbert W. Eichstedt III
Jason W. Eichstedt



Local and organic fresh greens, produce, eggs, meats, milk, and shelves of groceries await at the newly reopened store. Stop by and say hello! Open daily from 8 AM to 6 PM

shop@themillrivergeneralstore.com 413-229-2663

of Reserve Funds of \$5,525 to purchase an electronic voting system. At the Annual Town Meeting in May, a system was rented for approximately \$3,000 to have a trial run. After research, Moderator Barry Shapiro, along with Marc Trachtenberg, presented the proposal for a system from Meridia Interactive Solutions with 150 voting keypads. Meridia is recommended as the best priced, best technologically, and a purchase that does not require an annual maintenance agreement. Ms. Enoch noted that, in the event that more than 150 voters are expected at a meeting, keypads can be borrowed from Monterey or can be rented from Meridia.

Next, the Board authorized Chairman Carson to sign a Consent of Employer to a Lump Sum Settlement in a total amount of \$140,000. This is a Workers' Compensation settlement with Lawrence Davis who claimed lost wages, disfigurement, and loss of use following a 2010 accident while he was fulfilling duties as the Tree Warden. The settlement was negotiated by Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association on behalf of New Marlborough.

The single update from the Town Administrator was that the Bridge Unit of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation has decided it will not put reconstruction of the Keyes Hill bridge out to bid. It has determined that the new bridge design is too large for the road. It will move on to another bridge project and have the Keyes Hill bridge redesigned and put it out to bid in the spring of 2024.

Chairman Carson asked about the status of the search for candidates to fill the town secretary position. Ms. Enoch reported that Human Resources Officer Sophia Bletsos has identified two or three candidates for interview. Interview dates are to be determined. The candidates can also be considered for the open

position of assistant to the Police Chief.

Dan Alden, the only other meeting attendee, inquired about the status of several issues during the time of public comment: Regarding the status of the reopening of the Mill River Post Office, Chairman

Carson said he has been following up with the regional manager but does not have a status update. Regarding the return of hybrid (electronic remote) participate in meetings, some yet-to-be-resolved issues were noted. Simple streaming of meetings is easily accomplished but, if participation of remote attendees is desired, then a tech person is required to attend, to manage the participation of the

remote audience.

Further guidance is needed. Regarding speeding on our roads, two electronic speed monitor signs have been erected and the Town has applied for a grant to purchase a third. Following Chief Frank's concerns over a security audit of the New Marlborough Central School, no response has been received from the school district. Lastly, Mr. Alden asked if New Marlborough is complying with the state's requirements for financial audits. Ms. Enoch replied that there are best practices, rather than requirements. Requirements usually arise when towns engage in taking debt from sources other than the State House Note Program. All New Marlborough's current debt has been taken via this program.

By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

September 16: Town Administrator Mari Enoch, in a conversation with this reporter, said that in a non-routine meeting on Friday, at 8:30 a.m., the Board finalized an ARPA sub-recipient grant with Construct, Inc. A grant agreement was presented by the Town and the Board voted to authorize Chairman Mark Carson to sign, which he did. Notable is the inclusion

The Zoning Board of Appeals currently has only two of the three required members.



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Barnbrook Realty
Mary White and her team
are here to help you sell
(413) 528-4423
BarnbrookRealty.com



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

of a condition that Construct enter a Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with New Marlborough within ninety days of execution of the grant agreement. The signed agreement was then given to the three members of Construct who were present: Executive Director Jane Ralph, Housing Director June Wolfe, and Board President Elizabeth Rosenberg. They indicated they would review the Agreement before signing. The Board then detailed a process for producing and delivering a check after Construct signs. Ms. Enoch

reports that the agreement has since been signed by Construct and returned to New Marlborough. The only update of the meeting was given by Ms. Enoch, who informed the Board that New Marlborough has been awarded a \$20,000 municipal police safety grant. The Town applied with the intent of using the funds to increase police speed patrols and to purchase an additional electronic speed sign. □

Michele McAuley

As the November Election Approaches... SBRSD NEEDS YOU!

Many voters are unaware of an unusual situation that has arisen for the school committees of both Berkshire Hills and Southern Berkshire Regional as the November elections are approaching. Both committees have a large number of members who are not running for reelection. The shortage of people who are willing to serve in public office is reflected in the very small number of citizens who have collected the required signatures to have their names on the ballot for these vacant school committee positions. In the Berkshire Hills District, three of the five school committee positions on the ballot will be write-ins and in Southern Berkshire, two of the nine positions will be as well. It was previously reported that instead of the usual five open seats on the ballot there are four additional ones, owing to the fact that, since the 2020 election one new member died, one moved out of the district, one quit over state policy issues, and one resigned after being hired by Berkshire Hills. This means that write-ins will determine the new members in a total of five towns — Great Barrington, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Egremont, and New Marlborough. As it happens, five of the six who are not running for reelection have been representing their towns on the

Regional School District Planning Board, which is tasked with exploring the possibilities of consolidating the two districts. That is more than half of the current school committee representatives on that board. If no names are written in, the Select Boards of each town will appoint someone for the two years until the next election in 2024.

There is still time for a New Marlborough resident to mount a write-in campaign to fill the important role of school committee representative. The election is November 8. The open seat is for a two-year term. Voters from all five towns can be made aware of a person's interest through word of mouth, town list serves, town newspapers, local news outlets. Anyone interested in knowing more about the roles and responsibilities of a school committee member will find the School Committee Handbook at www.sbrsd.org under District/School Committee. School Committee chair Jane Burke can be reached at jburke@sbrsd.org to answer questions. □

MERCIER STONE

FINE STONE MASONRY
BRICK OVEN
FIREPLACE
HARDSCAPE
RESTORATION



508.560.7844
MERCIERSTONE.COM

Call today to join our family
new customers welcome

**KIMBALL
FUEL**

FUEL OIL • PROPANE • BIO FUEL
• SERVICE & INSTALLATION

168 Main Street Great Barrington 413-528-1410

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 18: Commission members John Schreiber, Freddy Friedman, Doug Hyde, and Nanci Worthington attended the month's meeting.

First on the agenda was a Request For Determination (RDA) presented by Rob Akroyd of Greylock Design Associates for his client Shirley Yohalem of 13 Cagney Hill Road. Mr. Akroyd described a severe erosion problem at the edge of her property that is creating gullies and dangerous road conditions. Mr. Akroyd suggested drainage improvements designed to remedy the impacts of runoff. Referring to a recent site visit, the Commission verified that the runoff and proposed work do not impact jurisdictional wetlands and agreed to a negative determination, meaning that no further permitting is required.

Next, Ian Devine of 61 Steepletop Road presented an RDA to remove tree debris due to beaver activity on Harnett Pond on his property. The beavers have felled a substantial number of trees which are impeding the normal flow of water over the dam at the pond. Mr. Devine has hired Wilkinson Excavating to remove the debris. The Commission discussed the proposed work while recognizing that the RDA had been submitted late and the required posting to the public could not be met. The Commission discussed the possibility of recording the proposed work as an "emergency permit" but concluded that the proper process would be to give the hearing the required public posting. The hearing was continued and a special meeting of the Commission was scheduled for August 30, which remedied the public posting requirement.

Dr. Schreiber then suggested that the Commission consider a new procedure. He proposed that Secretary Chretien develop a spreadsheet which tracks permits granted and permit conditions so

that the Commission can follow up and ensure that conditions specified for a permit are in fact met.

The Commission reviewed a special permit circulated by the Select Board for David Bailin of 228 Deerwood Park Road parcels eight and nine. Mr. Bailin is planning to remove an existing dwelling on a non-conforming lot. The Commission agreed to write a letter to the Select Board stating that upon preliminary review the project may well require a Notice of Intent. The meeting then adjourned.

August 30: At a special meeting, Commission members Freddy Friedman, Nanci Worthington and Doug Hyde convened and re-opened the RDA hearing for Ian Devine. Given that the Commission had reviewed the work to remove the debris at Harnett Pond on the 18th, and that the required public notice allowance had been met, without further discussion, the permit was given a negative determination meaning the work could proceed without further permitting. All done in about five minutes, record time for a Conservation Commission meeting! □

Martha Bryan

**MAHAIWE
& CHIROPRACTIC
& HEALTH
SERVICES**

*Dr. Lawrence Bronstein
Chiropractor, Board Certified Nutritionist*

15 Mahaiwe Street (413) 528-2948
Great Barrington, MA 01230 www.DrBronstein.com

**The New Marlborough Cultural Council
invites one and all to a**

**POTLUCK
SUPPER**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Saturday, October 22, 6:00 p.m.
at the New Marlborough Fire House**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Bring a dish large enough for
10 to 12 people and enjoy conversations
with your New Marlborough
friends and neighbors.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Potluck contributions by last name
initials ~ bring

A - F ~ Appetizer or hors d'oeuvre
G - L ~ Salad or side dish
M - T ~ Main course
U - Z ~ Dessert

Please feel free to bring your own wine or beer.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We ask that guests observe Covid precautions by
wearing a mask unless eating

Upcoming: Events Calendar for September and October

October 1: Edie Sedgwick and Andy Warhol, subjects of a new book by Alice Wohl, Edie's sister, will be discussed in an interview of Mrs. Wohl by **Simon Winchester**; 4:30 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House; \$20 — the final program of the 2022 season.

October 6: **New Marlborough Council on Aging Luncheon**, 12:30 p.m. at Gedney Farm. Reservations required. Call Prue (413) 229-8407 or Marsha (413) 248-1124

October 8: **Author talk and book signing; Daniel Medwed** will discuss his latest book, *Barred: Why The Innocent Can't Get Out of Prison*, an exposé on the difficulty of overturning wrongful convictions; at the New Marlborough Public Library in Mill River, 1:00 p.m.

October 15: **Roadside Cleanup**, followed by cider and donuts at the Goodnow Preserve: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; meet at the Town Hall parking lot at 9:45 a.m.

October 22: **Mindful Outdoor Experience and Nature Journaling at New Marlboro Preserve**; 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; led by Stephanie Landau of the Kripalu Center; signup required via nmlandtrust@gmail.com


October 22: **Potluck Supper**, sponsored by the Cultural Council, returns with a flavorful flourish, 6:00 p.m. at the New Marlborough Fire House in Southfield — those with surnames beginning with A to F, bring an appetizer or hors-d'oeuvres; G to L, salad or a side dish; M to T, a main course; U to Z, dessert

October 29: **A Halloween Scare**, sponsored by the New Marlborough Friends of the Library and the New Marlborough Historical Society; bonfire, hayrides, mystery guests, and more; at the Goodnow Preserve, 422 Mill River Southfield Road, starting at 4:30 p.m. (In case of rain, the event will be held at the New Marlborough Meeting House).

November 5: **Wine and Beer Tasting**, sponsored by New Marlborough Volunteer First Responders; food pairings from neighboring restaurants; at the firehouse in Southfield, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Thank You to Our Contributors:

Eugene & Elizabeth Rosenberg; Carol Parrish & Paul Clark; Joan Elmer & Lee Backer; Anne & William Tatlock; Fran & Don Cardiff; Leonard & Hannah Golub



**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

FROM HISTORIC MANSION TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

Much Needed Workforce Housing on the Way

By Barry R. Shapiro

When the stately Cassilis Farm property on Route 57 came up for sale at a foreclosure auction in July, the leadership of Construct, Inc., the affordable housing non-profit headquartered in Great Barrington, was excited. Here, finally, was a long sought-after opportunity to put affordable housing units in New Marlborough.

Unfortunately, the Construct representatives left the auction disappointed when they were outbid by a Worcester-based developer. The auction attracted five bidders, including Construct, which bid \$625,000, just short of the winning bid of \$650,000.

Construct's disappointment didn't last long however. For reasons unknown, the winning bidder backed out of the purchase, and the sale then defaulted to Construct as the next highest bidder.

"We are thrilled that we were able to acquire the property at a favorable price and that we are going to be able to bring thirteen affordable housing units to New Marlborough and still keep the historic nature of this historically important building," said Construct Board Chair and New Marlborough resident Elizabeth Rosenberg.

Less than two years ago, Cassilis was sold for almost \$1 million more than the recent auction price to the John Dewey Academy, then located at Searles Castle in Great Barrington. The Academy's head of school, Dr. David Baum, planned to move the school for troubled youth to the Cassilis site. However, when it became apparent that the significant renovations required were economically unfeasible, Dr. Baum chose not to proceed, and the mortgage holder started a foreclosure action.

According to Elizabeth Rosenberg, "We are now scheduled to close on September 26 and have raised much of the funds we need already. We will need about \$700,000 to finalize the purchase and pay off some back taxes. We also plan to sell off some land to an adjoining landowner, and we are extremely grateful to the Select Board for allocating \$217,903 from funds received by the Town under the American Rescue Plan Act, so we are close to our goal."

According to Mrs. Rosenberg, the main house at the site will be converted into eleven apartments. Two other buildings on the property, one a three-bedroom



photos by Larry Burke

Cassilis Farm, as seen from the New Marlborough Hartsville Road

home and the other a one-bedroom home (both of which need some renovation), should be rentable in the near future, to provide revenue for Construct. Renovations to the main house are expected to begin in about a year after all the funding, in the approximate amount of \$5,230,000, is in place. "The state government is very favorable to affordable housing, particularly in places like New Marlborough where it either doesn't exist or is in very short supply," said Mrs. Rosenberg.

Although she is confident about raising all the money needed for the purchase and subsequent renovations, Rosenberg is continuing her diligent efforts to fundraise. "We are so grateful to the Select Board and all those who have contributed to this vital effort. We are delighted with this project and would be happy to speak with anyone about it. Anyone interested in discussing it or considering assisting on the financial end should feel free to reach out to me at rbookster@gmail.com."

Construct Housing Director June Wolfe is confident that Construct can see this major project to its conclusion. "Construct has never failed to complete a project," said Ms. Wolfe. "We are also confident in our ability to raise the funds for the renovation via a subsidized mortgage through the Federal Home Loan Bank and a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development. Local employers have been asking for a project like this because they can't find anyone to hire, and no one wants to commute an hour and a half to a job. This project will help the workers who make our world go round – the dental hygienists, the restaurant servers,

the retail workers, the volunteer firefighters and the like find housing in New Marlborough.”

Construct Executive Director Jane Ralph is extremely enthusiastic about this project: “Being able to create New Marlborough’s first affordable and workforce housing is the culmination of a great partnership with the town’s leadership. After years of coordination with the Housing Committee and others, being able to provide these homes on this beautiful estate with full support of the Select Board feels so right. It’s close to area employers who are seeking staff members, is a great location for a young family who wants to return home but couldn’t otherwise afford it, and can be a model for other Berkshire towns.”

Cassilis Farm may be a bit of a mystery to newcomers to town, but it has a storied history. It was built just before the turn of the 20th century during the so-called “Gilded Age,” and came to be owned by Josiah Macy Willets. Mr. Willets, a banker and “sportsman,” was born in 1889, the wealthy scion of one of the Quaker settlers of Nantucket.

After his 1911 graduation from Yale, Mr. Willets, who also resided at 604 Park Avenue in New York City, established Cassilis Stock Farm in New Marlborough where he and his wife, Gladys, bred and raised hackney ponies, cocker spaniels, and Jersey

cows. The farm was part of the Great Mepal Estate founded by Mr. Willets’ father-in-law, Hildreth K. Bloodgood (perhaps the foremost of the Gilded Age residents of the town, who also built what he called Bloodgood Manor, and which is now the Center for Motivational Change).

Cassilis Farm contained a stable of sixty horses along with a souvenir room with hundreds of trophies won at horse and dog shows. The Willets were quite active in horse show associations and an annual exhibitor at Madison Square Garden. In fact, in the November 1, 1958 issue of *The New Yorker*, in the Talk of the Town section, there appeared a thoroughly informative and complimentary story on Gladys Bloodgood Willets, as she was preparing to participate in the seventy-fifth annual National Horse Show.

On October 7, 1940, Mr. Willets apparently intentionally shot himself in the head with a .22 caliber rifle in Canaan, Connecticut, and then, incredibly, managed to drive home to Cassilis Farm, where he ignored his guests, went up to his room, was discovered by a maid, and rushed to the hospital where he died. Mrs. Willets sold the property in 1975. For many years prior to the failed ownership by the John Dewey Academy, the farm was the home of Jane Carpenter and her family. □




Hope to See You!

Autumn Social

WINE, BEER & SPIRIT TASTING

Food pairings from Neighboring Restaurants
Sponsored by New Marlborough Volunteer First Responders

NOVEMBER 5, 5-7 p.m.
New Marlborough Fire Station 205 Norfolk Road, Southfield



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

RESIDENTIAL • LAND • COMMERCIAL

LEISURE POOLS

DESIGN • CONSTRUCTION • SERVICE

Pools • Spas • Saunas

208 Norfolk Road
P.O. Box 112
Southfield, MA 01259

Tel: {413} 528-1765
Fax: {413} 528-3039

www.leisurepools.net

NEIGHBORS



Alan Lombardi, of Mill River, passed away on August 12, a victim of Parkinson's disease, at the age of eighty-two. He graduated from Adelphi University in Garden City, New York, where he had become interested in the Waldorf educational philosophy and approach to teaching. He entered a Waldorf teacher training course where he met his future wife, **Elizabeth**; they were married for more than fifty years. Alan then taught mathematics to underprivileged students in Manhattan for two years. After that he worked at a bank

for several years before moving to the Educational Testing Service (ETS) in Princeton, New Jersey, for more than fifteen years.

During that time, the mid-1970s, he and Elizabeth purchased land on Hayes Hill Road from Charles and Margrit Suter. They bought an old truck from ETS and used it up here as they began, on weekends and vacations, to build their new home. Anticipating eventual year-round residence, they gradually began expanding the house, and put their home in Princeton on the market. Those plans were greatly accelerated when the Princeton house sold in just three days; they moved here full time around the year 2000.

Alan immediately joined in the activities of his new New Marlborough home and served on the Cultural Council, Village Association, and Historical Society. He chaired the planning committee for New Marlborough's extensive 250th Anniversary celebration; keeping the numerous subcommittees all on track was comparable, say, to managing a ten-team stagecoach run. He also participated in Project Bee, initially funded by the New Marlborough Cultural Council, which re-awakened his passionate interest in beekeeping for the rest of his life.

Alan's contributions to the town were recognized in 2010 when he received the Elihu Burritt Award for community service.

Louise Yohalem, of Mill River, served with Alan on a variety of Town boards and committees: I met Alan when I moved to New Marlborough in the winter of 2007. I immediately joined the Cultural Council, of which Alan was the treasurer. He was an impeccable caretaker of the Cultural Council accounts and, beyond that, took on the responsibility of setting up the Green and parking for the annual Burritt Day festival. When the time came for Alan to retire from the Council, he had written a manual on all of the tasks necessary to have everything in order for the big day, which helps his successors to this job. We also served together on the New Marlborough Village Association where he brought the same seriousness and dedication to the work of the organization.

Alan's dedicated and skillful work as a volunteer made him the obvious choice to head New Marlborough's 250th Anniversary celebration. I can't imagine that any other community has equaled our gala weeklong event. Actually, it was many events. We started with a meeting of volunteers at Town Hall where we established a small group of officers and subcommittees, and we were off! We held frequent meetings of the officers, and I met often with Alan at his dining table where Elizabeth always provided the tea and.... We had a contest to choose a Town flag; we had a new Town song; the PTA held a breakfast; a cortege of horse-drawn carriages pranced down Route 57; we raised money through ads to create a commemorative journal and keep the cost of dinner affordable; we sold brass plaques that were affixed to utility poles in all five villages; and finally, we had a gala catered dinner which was planned for 250 but attended by 475 people which required a second giant tent. Oh, and there were activities for children that evening so that everyone who wanted to come could be sure that their children were also having great time. Alan never lost his enthusiasm for this enormous celebration. He knew everything that had to be done, who was responsible for what, and kept us all working on the jobs we had undertaken. And he never lost his temper or enthusiasm. As his health diminished, Alan never lost his equanimity. Every time I saw him, he would greet me warmly with an enthusiastic smile and a kiss and spend a few minutes catching up. I'll never forget our time working together and his enthusiastic leadership and friendship.



Alan Lombardi with state representative 'Smitty' Pignatelli

photo by Larry Burke

Laura Endacott, also of Mill River, was the founder of Project Bee: I will remember Alan as unabashedly curious and an enthusiastic organizer. We shared a love of bees and beekeeping. Together we trekked an hour each way in the winter to 2007 to The Nature Institute to a study group on Rudolf Steiner's book about bees. He regularly attended Project Bee meetings and events and hosted a field trip to his home, where he showed off his well-constructed bear fence and his beehive's developing queen cell.

Alan combined professional contacts with his hobby: A colony of bees took up residence outside the office window of the president of the Educational Testing Service. Knowing of Alan's hobby, ETS asked him to remove the colony. He arrived with a clean, empty hive and, clad in full beekeeping gear, successfully relocated the whole colony – including the queen – to the new hive, which he brought home to New Marlborough.

In 2009 he recruited me to serve on the banner committee of the town's 250th anniversary. He was an active participant in New Marlborough's affairs. His enthusiasm will be missed. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS



photo by Sheila Baird

The peach bandit, caught red handed pawed

Not a lot of sightings reported this month, but these two are pretty great:

On August 29, **Sheila Baird** went to have a look at her back yard peach tree on the outskirts of Mill River and discovered somebody else interested in the ripening fruit. Sheila dubbed this **raccoon** with the who-little-old-me look, "The peach bandit."

And on September 14, Southfield resident **Terry Lush** captured a wonderfully composed **bobcat**. He writes, "It was soon to be bedtime for my four-year-old and I was prepping dinner for my wife and myself. I peeked out the window and saw our pesky but beloved yard neighbor, the **groundhog**, elbowing the bobcat to try to escape its grip on the scruff of its neck. Apparently the cat was exhausted from trying to take down larger prey than it could handle. The groundhog escaped the jaws of the cat and, step by step, worked its way to the safety of its home under the mudroom.

"I was excused from bedtime stories by my wife to go check on the scene outside. I grabbed my 70-300 mm. lens, opened the second floor kitchen window, removed the screen, and knelt on the kitchen counter, looking down at the cat twenty feet below.

"The bobcat did usual tired cat things – cleaned itself, panted, opened its mouth slightly to exhaust hot air – and if you could see the video clip I made, you would hear me doing the usual human-making-sounds at a cat. Hopefully the groundhog is OK! No signs of kitty or groundhog today. A beautiful sighting for sure." □

Compiled by Larry Burke;

send your sightings to him at larryjburke@gmail.com

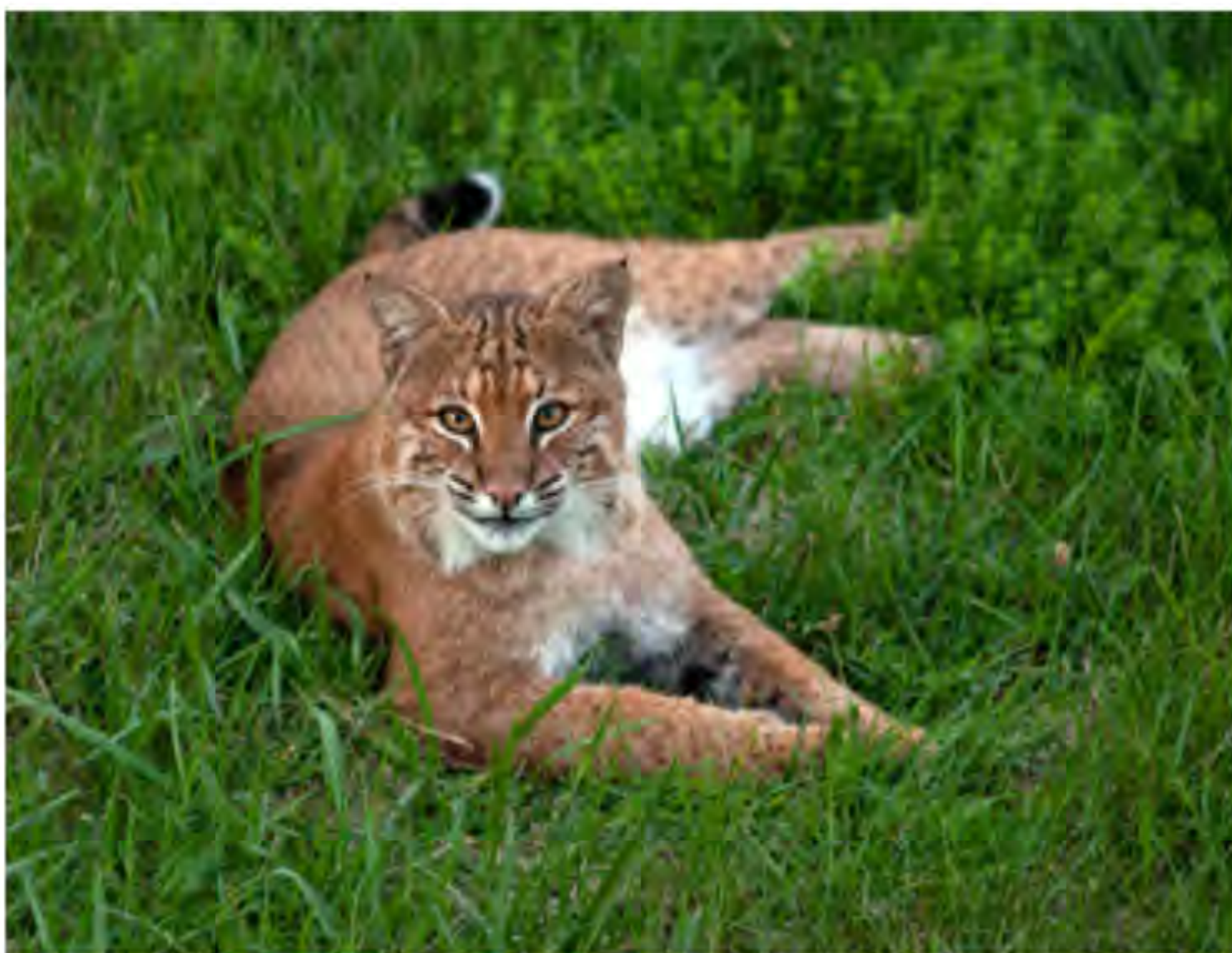


photo by Terry Lush

An exceptionally relaxed bobcat



NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST

October is my favorite month of the year. I love the chilly nights and crisp mornings, the red, orange, and yellow leaves of the trees as they slowly fall to dot our landscape. The New Marlborough Land Trust has October plans to keep you outside for another month to enjoy it all.

Sylvia Eggenberger, Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

Roadside Cleanup

Saturday, October 15, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., followed by cider and donuts at the Goodnow Preserve.

This is our opportunity to give back to this community by collecting trash along our many miles of roads. It's a clean sweep before the winter snow hides it all away for another season. Meet at the Town Hall parking lot at 9:45 a.m.

Mindful Outdoor Experience and Nature Journaling at New Marlboro Preserve

Saturday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., for ages 12 and up

Notice nature anew at the New Marlboro Preserve, whether you've walked the trail once or many times before. Stephanie Landau will guide you through a Kripalu Mindful Outdoor Experience to awaken your awareness and cultivate your connection to the land. Nature journaling and establishing a sit spot routine will be woven into this immersive experience along with other nature connection practices that you can take home with you. You'll leave the forest with a new sense of curiosity and wonder. (All journaling materials will be provided.)

Stephanie is a Kripalu-trained mindful outdoor guide and yoga instructor, life-long nature adventurer, and well-being professional. Please bring water, a small pad to sit on and come dressed for the weather, including closed toe sturdy shoes, insect repellent, and sunscreen.

Space for this event is limited, so place your reservation by emailing nmlandtrust@gmail.com

photo by Larry Burke



Left to right, Women's Doubles champs, Katherine Slingluff and Maggie Stuckey faced off against Kenzie Fields and Robin Yates

SPORTS! Longtime NM5VN readers will have noticed by now that our reporting on sporting events is generally... lacking. However, every so often an event comes along that is not only worthy of note for its athletic chops, but also for its distinctly historical significance – and such an event was this year's annual New Marlborough Tennis Association's Labor Day Tournament. 2022 marked the 75th year of the tourney's existence, more than sufficient cause for celebration and light-hearted ceremony. Participants and fans gathered in a barn on the Devine property on Labor Day to salute the winners (and losers), and to tell stories about the early days of this end-of-summer sporting and social event. Organizers Lydia Devine, Andrew Devine, and Douglas Glickman – themselves third generation NMTAers – put together a small museum of old trophies and other memorabilia, and presented impressively large trophies to this year's winners. Ian Devine was honored for his many decades as an organizer of and participant in the tournament. Hopes are high for the continued vitality of the event, as a number of talented youngsters this year belong to the fourth generation of players.

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!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This pumpkin Bundt cake drizzled with a maple syrup/brown sugar glaze is a fall showstopper. Last October, the editorial board of the 5 Village News met at our house. I served them this cake which got lots of compliments and a few requests for seconds. It's sure to be a hit with your friends and family, too. Enjoy!

Marjorie Shapiro



Maple Brown Sugar Glazed Pumpkin Bundt Cake

Ingredients for the Cake

3 cups (384 grams) all-purpose flour	1-½ tsps ground cardamom	½ cup extra virgin olive oil
2 tsp baking powder	¼ tsp black pepper	2 large room-temperature eggs
1 tsp baking soda	2 cups (440 grams) packed light brown sugar	½ cup full fat sour cream
1 ¼ tsps kosher salt	½ cup (114 grams) unsalted butter, soft and cool	1 15 oz. can pumpkin puree
2 tsps ground cinnamon		
¼ tsp ground allspice		

Ingredients for the Glaze

2 tablespoons unsalted butter	Pinch of salt
1 cup sifted, organic confectioners' sugar	1 to 2 tbsps lightly toasted pepitas
¼ cup maple syrup (local preferred)	(or more to taste)

Directions for the cake

- Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees with a rack in the central position.
- Butter and then flour a 12 cup (or larger) Bundt pan.
- Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, cardamom, allspice, and black pepper in a medium bowl until well combined.
- Using a stand mixer (paddle attachment), combine the olive oil, brown sugar, and butter. Beat on medium-high until light and fluffy, which should take about 3 minutes.
- Add the eggs one at a time and mix for about 20 seconds following each addition.
- Add the sour cream and pumpkin puree.
- Mix until well combined, scraping the bottom and sides of the bowl as necessary.
- Remove the bowl and using a rubber spatula fold the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients until well combined. Don't forget to scrape the bottom and sides.
- Pour the batter into the prepared Bundt pan, smooth the top and release any large air bubbles by tapping the pan on the countertop.
- Bake the cake for 55 to 65 minutes until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean. The cake should look golden and puffy.
- Leave the cake in the pan and let it cool on a rack for 20 minutes.
- Use the tip of a knife to carefully loosen the edges around the cake.
- Invert the cake onto the rack to cool completely before glazing (don't rush this step).

Directions for the glaze


- When the cake has cooled, melt the butter in a saucepan over medium heat.
- Cook the butter, occasionally scraping the bottom and sides of the pan with a rubber spatula until it turns a deep golden brown and smells nutty. Keep your eye on the pan during this process as the brown butter can burn and turn acrid quickly!
- Transfer the melted butter and all the brown bits from the pan to a heat proof bowl and let cool slightly.
- Whisk in the confectioners' sugar, maple syrup and salt until it becomes smooth. The glaze should be thick, but you should still be able to pour it. If it is too thin, add a bit more confectioners' sugar. If it is too thick, carefully add a few drops of water.
- Transfer the cake to a serving platter and pour the glaze evenly over the top. Sprinkle with pepitas.
- Let the glaze set for a few minutes before serving.

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Aug. 1 10:42 a.m. A Hartsville resident reports a verbal altercation with a person visiting his neighbor.
- 8:35 p.m. A wallet found outside Town Hall is turned over to the Police Department office.
- Aug. 4 11:07 p.m. A driver, stopped for speeding on Hartsville New Marlborough Road, is taken into custody for driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Aug. 6 1:56 p.m. A caller reports a breaking and entering at his Clayton residence.
- 6:22 p.m. The Department assists a caller in ridding a swarm of yellow jackets that have nested in her Hartsville residence.
- 9:48 p.m. An officer investigates a fireworks complaint from a Clayton resident.
- Aug. 9 10:00 a.m. An officer controls traffic as the driver of tractor trailer with a large flatbed executes a difficult turn on County Road.
- Aug. 10 9:35 a.m. A caller reports a neighbor's dogs harassing the chickens at his Clayton residence.
- Aug. 13 9:19 a.m. An officer assists a Mill River resident who has locked herself out of her car.
- Aug. 14 7:22 p.m. A caller complains of a dirt bike racing back and forth past his Hartsville residence.
- Aug. 15 10:24 a.m. A motorist reports six cows loose on Hayes Hill Road.
- Aug. 17 2:29 p.m. A Hartsville resident reports an attempt to access his bank account through identity theft using information on his driver's license.
- Aug. 18 12:14 p.m. An officer confirms the suspicions of a New Marlborough village resident that the \$9,000 cashiers check purportedly sent her by Publisher's Clearing House is a scam.
- Aug. 20 2:12 p.m. A caller reports damage to a no-trespassing sign outside his Hartsville residence.
- Aug. 21 4:20 p.m. An officer assists a visitor to Umpachene Falls Park who has lost her car key.
- Aug. 22 2:00 p.m. An officer assists a motorist who has locked himself out of his car at the Southfield Store.
- Aug. 27 12:04 a.m. Observed weaving across the center line on Hartsville New Marlborough Road, a motorist is arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.
- 3:44 p.m. Stopped for speeding on Hartsville New Marlborough Road, the operator is issued a criminal complaint for driving a vehicle with an expired registration with a suspended license.
- 11:32 p.m. A driver stopped on Mill River Great Barrington Road for a marked lane violation is arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol.
- Aug. 28 1:09 a.m. An officer investigates a disturbance in Mill River.
- 9:12 p.m. An officer assists in locating a cow that has wandered away from her Hartsville property.
- Aug. 30 5:18 p.m. The Highway Department is alerted to a tree down on Mill River Great Barrington Road in Mill River village.
- Aug. 31 5:11 a.m. A dog walker reports the collision of a truck with a utility pole, snapping the pole in half, on New Marlborough Southfield Road.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

SCOTT

 MacKENZIE
 EXCAVATING

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



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

FIRE AND RESCUE

Aug. 1	9:27 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm	Aug. 13	2:11 a.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call
Aug. 2	9:39 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm	Aug. 13	8:26 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
Aug. 3	9:59 a.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Fire Alarm	Aug. 17	2:37 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call
Aug. 3	11:51 a.m.	Mill River Southfield Road Medical Call	Aug. 19	9:54 a.m.	Stone Manor Drive Fire Alarm
Aug. 3	8:26 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call	Aug. 19	1:48 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
Aug. 4	3:13 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call	Aug. 20	4:37 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
Aug. 6	9:54 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	Aug. 24	6:56 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call
Aug. 8	8:54 p.m.	Brewer Branch Road Medical Call	Aug. 26	2:15 p.m.	Norfolk Road Fire Alarm
Aug. 11	2:46 a.m.	Lakeside Road Medical Call	Aug. 27	10:05 a.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call
Aug. 11	4:19 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	Aug. 31	5:16 a.m.	New Marlborough Southfield Road MVA

Fire Company President David Smith

THANK YOU to all who helped make the 2022 New Marlborough Fire Company Pig Roast and Raffle a success! And congratulations to our raffle winners:

- Grand Prize – Beth Cook
- Second Prize – Damian Van Denburgh
- Third Prize – Melissa Martin

Plus a special thanks to our supporters and donors:

- **Berkshire Bike & Board** – for the Grand Raffle grand prize
- **The Farm New Marlborough and Tom Brazie** – for providing the pigs
- **Ormsbee Gas Company** – 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
- **Our Southfield Neighbors** – for supporting three days of preparations, the festivities, and the cleanup
- Our many **helpers** who made the day a success.

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.

Fire Company President David Smith

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



Keep on TRling

Pediatric, Sports, Pool,
Manual Therapy: Cranial Sacral,
METs, MFR

Tamera S. Gebo-Wilber P.T.
C: (413) 717-7218
H: (413) 644-9198
tamerapt35@gmail.com
www.triptoftheberkshires.com

SCHOOL NEWS

THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL REPORT

The opening of school each year is special time for everyone involved. New staff arrived early to participate in an orientation day on August 25. Eighteen teachers who are either new to the Southern Berkshire School District or are taking on new roles joined administrators and School Committee members for a relaxed breakfast at which there was plenty of time for informal conversations. The rest of the day, the new hires learned about school policies and culture and the layout of their buildings and classrooms.

All staff gathered in the Mount Everett auditorium early on August 29 to begin two days of preparations before the arrival of the students. During the opening ceremony, Courtney English, instrumental music teacher, set a positive tone through the performance of her humorous original song about a teacher's experience coming back to school at SBRSD. Mount Everett Principal Jesse Carpenter followed with his enthusiastic explanation of the launch of the Mount Everett Early College this year. He outlined how excited he is about what it will mean to students and their families, as well as the new opportunities it will provide for Mount Everett teachers to become certified as early college teachers. Charles Miller, principal of the elementary schools followed with comments about how the early college will ripple down into pre-kindergarten with new approaches to help children learn to think, express themselves, and solve problems. There was also recognition of the service of the teachers, especially those with over thirty years.

The highlight of the morning was the session with Dr. Adolph Brown, an internationally known psychologist and founding CEO of the Leadership and Learning Institute. During his presentation, he transformed his appearance from that of a poor



Fourteen members of the SBRSD faculty and staff who are starting off as new hires or in new positions this fall

photo by Jane Burke

child with dreadlocks to a professor in robes to make the point to the teachers that, though we jump to conclusions based on what we see, teachers have the opportunity to control this impulse, to see the true nature of their students, and to pass the ability to withhold judgement on to the children they teach.

The two principals are especially enthusiastic about the new hires: Elementary Schools Principal



Opening day speaker, Dr. Adolph Brown, center, with, from left, Sandi Hubbard, director of student services, Julie Dolan Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, Charles Miller Elementary Schools Principal, Dr. Beth Regulbuto Superintendent, and Jesse Carpenter Principal of Mount Everett.

photo by Kari Giordano

Charles Miller said, "Things are off to a great start in the elementary grades. There are six new hires and four people in new positions. We are fortunate to have a committed cadre of new staff who have hit the ground running." Jesse Carpenter at Mount Everett wrote, "Things are off to a great start for our new staff members. In secondary, we have three new staff members and five staff members in new roles. They are all contributing positively already to the Mount Everett community."

Several of the new hires were asked to talk about their first impressions. Connie Gott has moved on from being a case worker at Mount Everett to becoming family and consumer science teacher. She said, "My first few weeks have been amazing. I had very large shoes to fill, as the Mount Everett Culinary Arts Program has been so successful in the past. We started the semester with a unit on sanitation and kitchen safety and now have started a unit on making soups, from deboning a chicken to the preparation of the vegetables. To help fund our program, we opened

a coffee bar for the staff. We are offering coffee from Number Six Depot, and it has been a success so far. The coffee is affordable and delicious.”

Julie Steurenagle is in her twenty-second year at SBSRD and has been promoted from special education teacher to assistant principal at Mount Everett. She said, “I am super excited to have been promoted to this important work for the District. I have had the opportunity to get to know so many great students and families, which makes my work for the District even more meaningful. I completed my administrator license with MCLA through their Leadership Academy in 2015. I am so grateful to work with so many amazing faculty and staff in our small community and look forward to continuing to promote our work on behalf of students and families of the five towns. I am excited to support the Early College initiative at Mount Everett as we strive to offer all our students the best high school experience possible.”

Another teacher who has changed her role is Jennifer Rossi, who has worked in the District for twenty years as a paraprofessional and long-term substitute in kindergarten. She is now the new pre-kindergarten teacher. She said, “I am honored be promoted to this role. I am so enjoying starting the morning with ‘classmate greetings,’ the opportunity to hear each student share when asked a question and practice using their voices. In addition to the small group and whole class art activities, we have yoga and work on fine motor skills. I enjoy the free-choice playtime inside and outside.”

Superintendent Beth Regulbuto wrote about another new hire who just started on September 19. She said, “I am pleased to announce that we have hired a new director of building and grounds, Mr. John Borwick. John comes to us with vast experience in safety and security, purchasing, management, and operations. The hiring committee was unanimous in their recommendation and found John to be genuine, hardworking, collaborative, and professional.”

The new Mount Everett choral music teacher Xander Stephan explained his first few weeks: “I am new both to this district and to school teaching in general. Navigating the obstacles of first year teaching is a lot of work, but it’s work that I’ve been looking forward to doing my whole life. I’ve built relationships, set achievable expectations, and hopefully given students an enjoyable re-introduction to choir singing

after the Covid years. The students, administrators, teachers, and staff in this building are incredibly supportive. I couldn’t imagine a better environment in which to learn and grow as a new teacher. It has not been without its struggles, difficulties, and fair share of off moments, but every day is a journey that I wake up looking forward to taking!”

New eighth grade math teacher Robert Maier has relocated from New York City where he taught for twenty-four years. He commented, “It is more than rewarding to have found myself in such a wonderful place to teach, and in such a beautiful, natural environment in which to live. Having taught for so many years in the inner city, in which student apathy and disassociation with learning is rampant, coming to Mount Everett and the SBRSD is like a breath of fresh air. The young people with whom I have been entrusted to work are excel-

lent learners. They are kind and sweet, and with the excellent leadership of the administration they thrive in this system. The small class sizes, all of which are half the size of the classes I am used to teaching, facilitate an excellent learning environment. I no longer have to stress about that! My drive to and from work is uplifting, and the views often take my breath away. So all in all, if working at Mount Everett isn’t my reward for all the hard work I have done over the years, it’s close to it. Teacher heaven must be like this.”

A new employee familiar to many is Lindy Ann Marcel, who grew up in Mill River and is a 2005 graduate of Mount Everett. While there, she was a star at robotics and ran the lighting board for all the productions in the theater. After graduation from RPI with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Management she went on to work in various technology start-ups in Michigan and then New York City. While running a cloud-based computing company, she was also a volunteer tutor and became increasingly interested in education. During the pandemic, she came back to the area and decided to stay. She attended the first visioning session for the Mount Everett Early College and became intrigued with the new possibilities for Mount Everett students. When the job of Early College Internship Coordinator was posted she decided to take a break from her career in the tech world to contribute to establishing this new program. By at least one account, she has “hit the ground running.” □

Jane Burke



Principal Jesse Carpenter takes a moment with newly hired choir director, Xander Stephan, during the August 25 orientation session.

photo by Jane Burke

THE NEW MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

New Aquisitions

Adult Fiction

Yesterday's Spy, by Tom Bradley
Elizabeth Finch, by Julian Barnes
A Single Rose, by Muriel Barbery
Daisy Darker, by Alice Feeney
Back to the Garden, by Laurie R. King
The Rising Tide, by Ann Cleeves
Act of Oblivion, by Robert Harris

Adult NonFiction

The Crane Wife, by CJ Hauser

Children's Fiction

After the Moonrise, by Rich Lo
Pumpkin and Me, by Alicia Acosta
A Seed Grows, by Antoinette Portis
The Depth of the Lake and the Height of the Sky, by Kim Jihyun
The Witchling's Wish, by Lu Frases

DVDs

Elvis
Hidden Assets Season 1
Lightyear
Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris
Where the Crawdads Sing



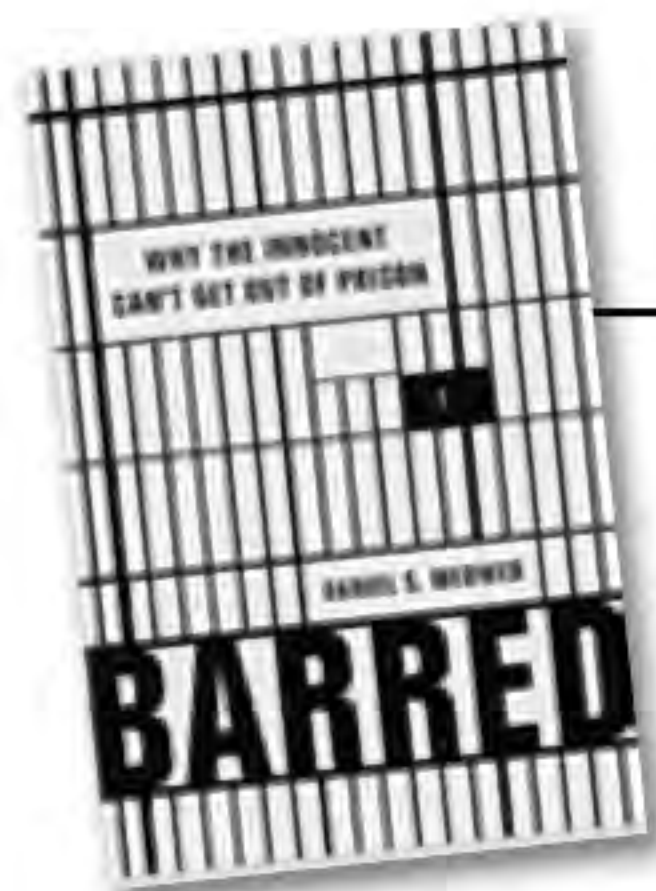
Happy
Halloween
 LIBRARY HOURS

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



AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING

October 8 at 1:00 pm

Please join us for a discussion and signing of Professor Daniel Medwed's new book, *Barred: Why The Innocent Can't Get Out of Prison*, a groundbreaking exposé of how our legal system makes it nearly impossible to overturn the wrongful convictions of thousands of innocent people who are behind bars in the United States. Available on Google Books. Professor Medwed, a leading authority on criminal law, focuses his research and pro bono activities around the topic of wrongful convictions. His book explores the range of procedural barriers that so often prevent innocent prisoners from obtaining exoneration. Professor Medwed is a founding member of the board of directors of the Innocence Network, a consortium of innocence projects throughout the world, and a former president of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Innocence Center. He currently serves on the board of the New England Innocence Project and is the legal analyst for GBH News, Boston's local NPR and PBS affiliate.



**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:** By appointment only; call 413-229-0277
- 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.
- PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1**
and can be purchased for \$185
by mail or online at
www.newmarlborough.gov.
Please enclose a self-addressed,
stamped envelope. No admittance
without a permit after August 15

Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
911**

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.
Hours:
Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244
(413) 229-8165

*We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.
Other businesses can be listed in the Service Sector (see back page). Questions, rates? Call Barbara Lowman: 229-2369*

NM5VN Editorial Team

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

NM5VN Board of Directors

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at

www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated November 2022.
All copy must be submitted no later than October 17.
For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259
5villagenews@gmail.com

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

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

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

SERVICE SECTOR 10/22

- **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@barrington-lawoffice.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