



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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RENOVATING TOWN HALL

ADA Compliance Is Driving Changes Large and Small

By Joe Poindexter

For years, New Marlborough has not come to terms with the fact that its Town Hall is not friendly to people with disabilities. The main problem: the upper floor, where annual town meetings are held, is not accessible to wheelchair-bound citizens. There are other problems as well. The bathrooms are too small and ill-designed; the exit ramp from the upper floor slopes at too great an angle; even the recently graded pathway to the back entrance is, according to standards defined in the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), too steep.

Last year, the Town faced up to the necessity of addressing these short-comings. It formed a Designer Selection Committee, which chose edm associates, an architecture and engineering firm with offices in Pittsfield, to develop an ADA-compliant design for Town Hall. With that task accomplished, the group morphed into the Design Review Committee, which mixed and matched solutions from various design options and presented its recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on October 19.

The Committee – chaired by Town Administrator Mari Enoch and including Leslie Armstrong (an architect) Selectman Richard Long, and Scott Walker – grappled with a number of variables: where to install an elevator (or in some plans a wheelchair lift); whether or not to remove the stage on the main floor; whether to build an ADA-compliant ramp from the main floor to the parking area; and, the option that turned out to be the key to all the others, whether to build an addition on the south end of Town Hall, effectively turning what is now the back of the building into its front entrance.

The addition won unanimous support. It would provide space for an elevator (the wheelchair lift was rejected as being too slow and could accommodate only a single passenger at a time) and a stairway. It also placed a vestibule between the outside door and entry into the office space proper. Furthermore, in the opinion of edm associates, the combination of stairway and commodious elevator eliminated the need for a ramp from the main floor. A stairway where there is now a ramp would suffice, they said.

The major alterations to the ground floor interior would be enlarged, wheelchair-accommodating bathrooms and a so-called break room, which would double as a lounge and a kitchenette for Town Hall employees. Committee members left undecided whether or not to leave the break room space open to the corridor that leads to what is now the front of the building.



The Committee's preference is for a design that creates a main entrance at what is now the back of Town Hall.

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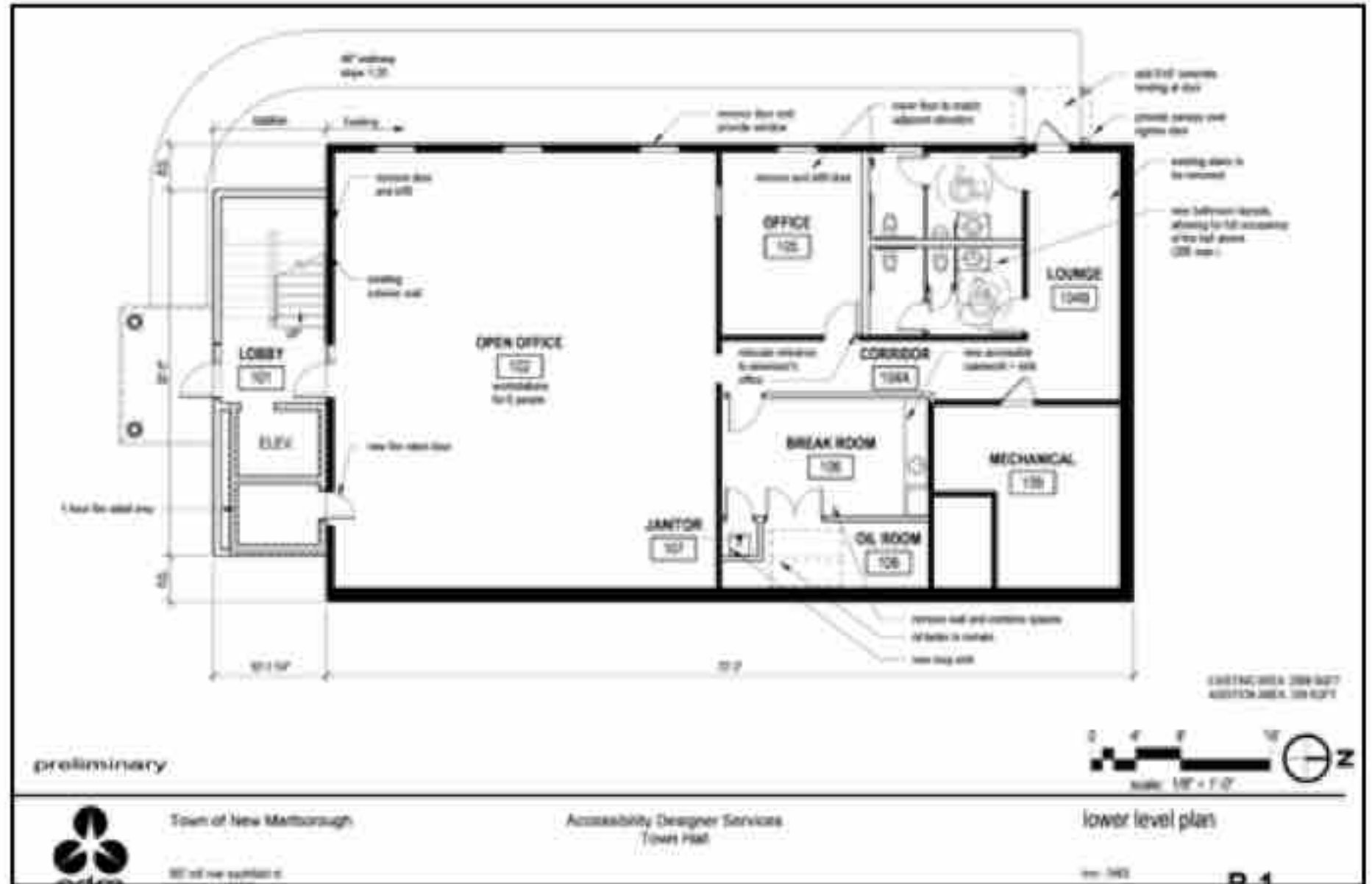
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Renovating Town Hall, continued

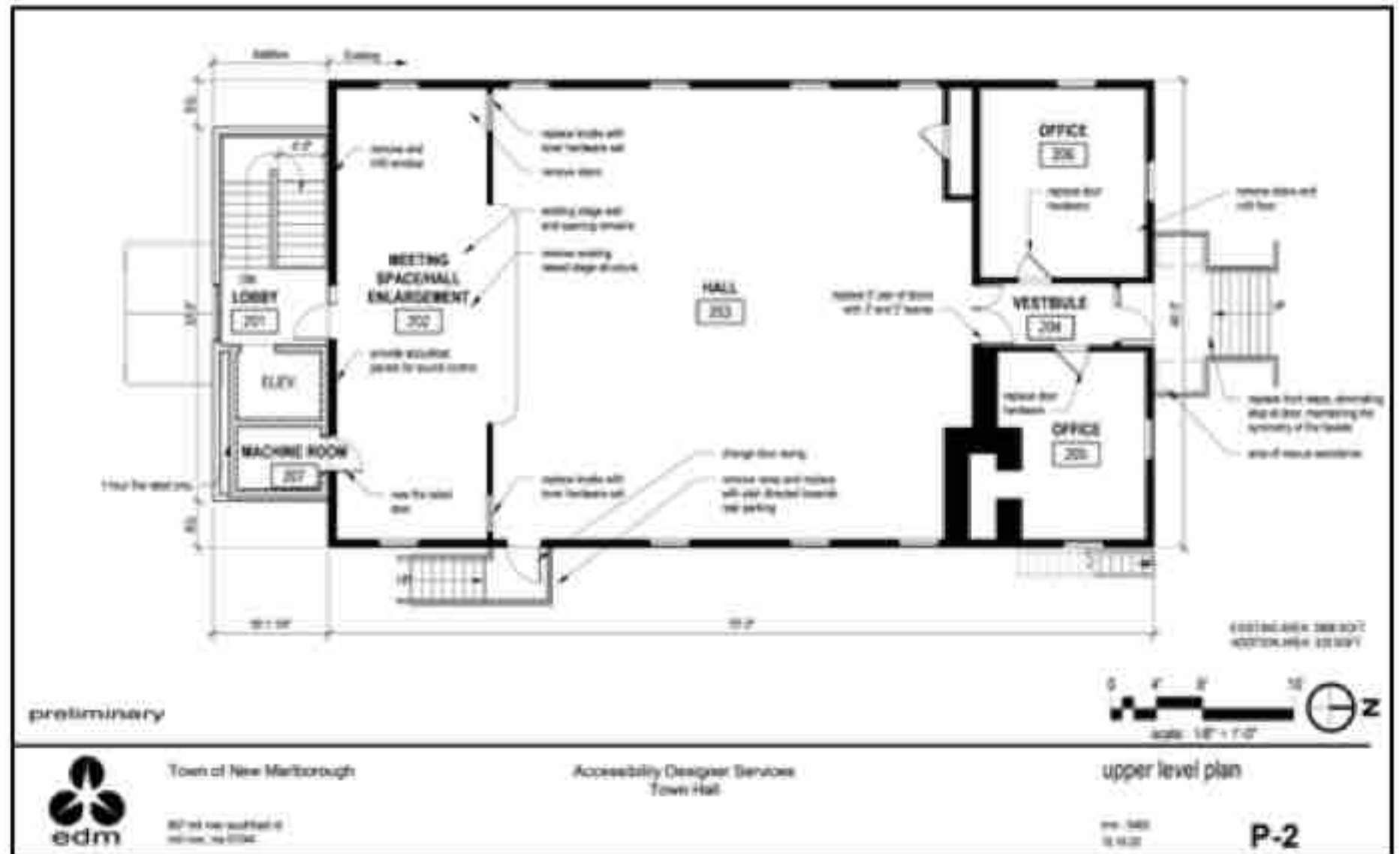
The big change upstairs is the elimination of the stage, providing for an enlarged meeting space or two additional offices (whether the Police Department maintains its office at Town Hall was not decided as this issue of NM5VN went to press). This would have the effect of flipping the entry to town meetings from the north end of the building to the south, with attendees entering directly from the parking lot. Finally, the parking lot would undergo a bit of landscaping so as to bring the grade of the path to the ground floor entry into compliance with ADA regulations.

The cost for all this? The number put forth by architect Tim Widman: \$1.7 million. But he immediately asked the Committee to forget it. It was offered, he said, only to use as a comparison to other renovation plans and would almost certainly change.

At its October 19 meeting, the Board of Selectmen voted to proceed with the design as presented. Next steps, according to Mr. Widman, would be to clean up the plans, present them to a cost estimator, and then return to the Design Review Committee and the Board for approval before sending the project out for bid. A renovated Town Hall, he said, was two years away.



The Design Review Committee opted for an addition to the back of Town Hall that would provide space for an elevator and a stairway.



Meeting room space would be enlarged by removing the stage.

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DOWN BALLOT

Your Vote for School Committee Candidates Will Make a Difference

We all remember the bumper stickers that began appearing on Bay State autos in 1974 following the resignation of Richard Nixon: "Don't blame me, I'm from Massachusetts." In fact, since 1960, the commonwealth has voted for a Republican presidential nominee just twice, in the Ronald Reagan elections of 1980 and '84. So you can be forgiven if you view the Massachusetts electoral college vote this year as a foregone conclusion. Down ballot, however, your vote will make a difference — for membership on the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) School Committee.

Three Committee seats are being contested. Three men are vying for two openings in Sheffield; two women have declared themselves as write-in candidates (after the ballot was printed) for one Committee membership in Egremont. Herewith, brief descriptions of these candidates.

FROM SHEFFIELD:

► **Art Batacchi** has served on the School Committee on three different occasions, the latest beginning in 2016. He is currently chairman of the District's Building and Grounds and Technology Committees. A life-long resident of Sheffield, Mr. Batacchi attended District schools and graduated from Mount Everett High School in 1971. His children, too, attended SBRSD schools. Believing that consolidation with another district is not feasible at this time, he favors maintaining SBRSD as a discreet entity to educate the children of its five member towns.

► **Jonathan Bruno** has served in leadership roles in public schools in Massachusetts and Connecticut, where during the past eighteen years he has taught special education, elementary education, history, and English as a second language. He has also taught courses in such subjects as international baccalaureate history, and theory of knowledge, and he recently earned a doctorate in education leadership from Northwestern University. After moving to the Berkshires four years ago, Dr. Bruno

was elected to the School Committee, which he currently serves as vice chairman. The three Bruno children all attend District schools.

► **Andy Fetterhoff**, who has lived in Ashley Falls for twenty years, was a member of the School Committee from 2008 to 2012, during which time he served on the Regional Agreement, Technology, Negotiations, and Buildings and Grounds Committees. With a daughter in first grade at Undermountain, Mr. Fetterhoff is motivated to rejoin the Committee to help guide the District toward educational excellence in a time of fiscal restraint.

FROM EGREMONT:

► **Susan Bachelder**, a long-time resident of Egremont, has served on the town's Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Complete Streets Committee, and, for ten years, as chair of the Historic Commission. She has been a substitute music teacher in SBRSD schools. In 2007, she chaired an ad hoc committee that championed the cause of small schools in the District, one of which is located in Egremont, and believes they remain fiscally viable with the development of both in-person and long-distance learning.

► **Genis Melendez-Delaney**, who attended Hunter College and completed her graduate studies at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., was both a teacher and a principal at elementary schools in New York City. She served as director of the Principals Institute at Bank Street College, also in New York. Since moving to the Berkshires, she has volunteered with Community Health Programs and as a Spanish language interpreter for mental health clinicians at Volunteers in Medicine. A prior term on the School Committee was interrupted by illness.

The Egremont candidacy to the School Committee is blank on the 2020 ballot. Voters must both write in the name of their choice and ink in the oval next to it to register their choice. □

Joe Poindexter




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BOARD OF SELECTMEN



September 23: The Board, with all three members participating by phone, convened a special joint teleconference at 5:06 p.m. with the Sandisfield Board and other town officials to award the MassWorks Route 57 repaving contract. Present on the call for Sandisfield were Selectmen George Riley and Brian O'Rourke, Highway Superintendent Brad Curry, and Town Manager Joanne Grybosh.

But even before the meeting could be called to order, New Marlborough's Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, who was also on the call, **raised an alarm regarding the quality of the work being performed by the Route 57 culvert contractor, Tasco Construction Corp. of Belmont, Massachusetts.**

He said they're proving to be quite a challenge to deal with and said he has had to station one of his men at the job site to monitor their work. "Otherwise, they'll cut every corner they can." He said, for example, they're trying to patch existing culvert boxes with chimney bricks instead replacing them as they're supposed to do, and they're refilling the holes over the boxes without tamping down the earth. "We should've hired a clerk of works when the low bidder turned out to be a company we didn't know and hadn't dealt with before, someone who could watch them all day long," he said, adding, "It's going to prove to be very time consuming; they're just not easy to work with."

When he'd finished, the meeting was officially called to order as the two Boards got down to the business at hand, which was to review and award the joint bid for the paving contract. Four bids were received by the September 16 deadline, according to Chairman Tara White. They were from L.B. Corp., J.H. Maxymillian, Palmer Paving Corp., and Eurovia Atlantic Coast LLC, with L.B. Corp.

coming in with the low bid of \$1,426,994.

However, as Selectman Long noted, "There's a good chance they will not be able to do the work before the weather shuts us down because of low temperatures, given the slow progress on the culverts." Pointing out that the bid technically expires after ninety days, he suggested including a proviso in the contract that the bid remain valid in the event of a spring start date, rather than the fall. And with that, he made a motion that the low bid from L.B. Corp. be accepted to repave the four miles of Route 57 extending from New Marlborough into Sandisfield. The motion was approved unanimously. And with that the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Peter Schuyten

September 29: The Board of Selectmen met via Zoom, which, for the first time since the inception of coronavirus-necessitated virtual meetings, provided visual as well as audible contact. The meeting opened with a fervent request from former selectman Nat Yohalem **that the Highway Department address the precarious condition of Knight Road** (it provides the sole access to Aberdeen Lane, where Mr. Yohalem resides). Citing a particularly dangerous double curve, Mr. Yohalem said, "It's a miracle that no one has been killed on that portion of the road." He asked that this, the most heavily pot-holed section of Knight Road, be repaired before winter and that the remainder be resurfaced next year.

An extended discussion followed. Chairman Tara White observed that Knight Road was not the only road in town in need of attention — she named Hatchery and Konkapot Roads as others in parlous condition — but granted that Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring should come up with a plan to make the sharp corner



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on Knight Road safe before winter sets in. Steve Klein, tuned into the meeting, also took the long view, noting that the Highway Department had hired a consultant to survey the condition of all town roads and prioritize a schedule of repairs. Mr. Yohalem suggested that if a committee were formed to advise on roadwork priority, he would like to serve on it. Knight Road resident Tom Sebestyen also offered to join such a committee.

The meeting moved on to a lengthy discussion of **design plans to bring Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**. The design firm of edm associates of Pittsfield offered four alternatives. All of them provide a mechanical lift. Two leave the layout of the upper and lower floors basically intact, while two eliminate the stage on the main floor, thereby either extending the meeting space or providing an area for two new offices.

With three members of edm Zooming in, the discussion ricocheted between questions of meeting capacity, electricity needs, the hazard of icefall from the roof, water drainage through the parking area, the necessity of both a lift and a ramp, and, of course, cost. Pushed to a future meeting were two concerns of the Design Review Committee: whether the Police Department would continue to occupy space in Town Hall and whether there was need to expand town meeting attendance capacity. edm promised to present the Board, following its meeting with the Design Review Committee on October 7, with plans clearly delineating the differences, including cost, of renovations with or without an addition. (See story on page 1 for a look at floor plans and various options facing the Town in creating an ADA-compliant Town Hall.)

Next up were a number of ADA-related house-keeping matters. First, according to Tom Stalker, who attended the meeting via phone, **state grant money is available to**


address ADA compliance at the Highway Department garage and for parking at Umpachene Falls Park. Mr. Stalker said that a grant application was due October 9 but that he had thus far not received cost information from Superintendent Loring. After Town Administrator Mari Enoch said she would talk to Mr. Loring about costs, the Board voted in favor of having Mr. Stalker pursue a grant application.

The second ADA matter was the adoption of a revised nondiscrimination statement, which added the name, address, and phone number of Owen Wright, who is the Town's ADA coordinator. A third was the adoption of a document describing procedures to follow in cases of discrimination based on disabilities. This, too, was revised with the addition of Mr. Wright's name as the person to whom complaints should be addressed.

Moving on, Selectman Richard Long asked, "How do we assure that everyone is up to speed on open-meeting laws?" He suggested that a handbook might be prepared that spelled out ethical requirements and other rules governing meetings of any Town committee or board. Ms. White recommended that a memo be sent to chairpersons and department heads giving links to open meeting instruction and rules. To a question from Assistant Secretary Sharon Fleck, Tom Stalker said that yes, the rules applied to Town employees. "Anyone who is elected or appointed needs to take open-meeting instruction," he said.

Acting on a recommendation from Mark Carson, in his role as Planning Board chairman, the Board appointed Tom Sebestyen to fill an open seat on the Board until that position comes up for election next May. Mr. Long advised the Board that culvert work on Route 57 was behind schedule and that the contractor would need a waiver of its September 30 deadline. As a consequence, paving work on Route 57 would be pushed

The open meeting laws apply to Town committee and board meetings, as well as Town employees.



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into next year, but this was preferable, said Mr. Long, to pressuring the contractor just to meet a deadline.

After Ms. White praised the work of the Police and Fire and Rescue Departments in a nighttime search for two hikers lost in the Thousand Acre Pond trail system (they walked out safely the next morning), her motion to adjourn the meeting, now in its third hour, was briskly approved.

Joe Poindexter

October 5: Instead of its usual Monday night meeting, the Board convened what was billed as a “Public Listening Session” for a presentation on the Town’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) plan. In addition to the three selectmen, the teleconference was attended by Jeff Malloy and Jeanette Tozer, environmental consultants with Boston-based BSC Group, which has been working with the Town to achieve its MVP certification.

After introductions were made, BSC’s Mr. Malloy, whose official title is Senior Climate Adaptation Planner, gave a twenty-minute slide presentation on the status and goals of the MVP plan. This was followed by a question and answer session with Town residents who were participating via Zoom.

As Mr. Malloy explained, the ten-month MVP effort is close to wrapping up, and the listening session is the final step in the process, after which he will submit a report to the state’s Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the sponsoring agency for the program. If all goes according to plan, he said, and “we’ve met our process obligations, the Town will receive its designation as an MVP community,” which he expects by the end of the month.

That’s no small thing, as it will make New Marlborough eligible to apply for “action grants” that can be used to enhance the town’s resilience to climate change. As reported earlier, these could include projects

such as floodplain protection, shoring up riverbanks to prevent erosion, dealing with invasive plants and the acquisition of open space. (For a more in depth look at the MVP program and how it can benefit the Town, see “Climate Change: Yes, It is on the Way, and New Marlborough Wants to Be Ready” in the July issue of the NM5VN.)

The program has been very successful in its four years of existence, Mr. Malloy said, and as of last week some

89 percent of the communities in the state have gone through or are involved in it, adding that New Marlborough in fact is already participating in a regional action grant with Sheffield and Sandisfield. That grant, worth \$123,972, is being used to assess the vulnerability of the towns’ dirt roads.

Mr. Malloy also mentioned that a recorded video of the presentation along with a survey for people unable to join tonight’s session who want to provide feedback can be accessed via the project website at newmarlboroughmamvp.wordpress.com.

Peter Schuyten

Superintendent Loring has had to station a man at the job site.

“Otherwise, they’ll cut every corner they can.”

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October 19: At a Zoom meeting attended by associates of edm, the firm the Town has hired to develop plans to bring Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), **the selectmen accepted the recommended changes** (after suggesting that a mop room at the back of the break room be moved to same wall as the break room sink) **and asked edm to send the plan to a cost estimator.** (For a fuller description of the renovation, see page 1.)

Next, Chairman Tara White said she had **conferred with officials in Sheffield and Great Barrington on Covid-19 safety measures they were adopting for Halloween trick or treating** and would prepare an advisory for New Marlborough families. Richard Long reminded the Board that the library was planning for a drive-by.

Discussion then turned to **options for replacing the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transport Corp. (SBETC)** operation, which ceased on October 1. Town Administrator Mari Enoch said she has been in discussion with officials of a projected seven-town consortium, based in Great Barrington, that would move to fill the void left by SBETC. The prospective group, Ms. Enoch noted, would need assurance that member towns would back the effort financially. She asked the Board if it would commit to spending the amount budgeted to SBETC in the current fiscal year. With Prudence Spaulding, director of senior services of the Town's Council on Aging, on hand to emphasize the need for elderly transportation, the Board reached a consensus to commit in principle to a regional effort but would need to see a service agreement before signing on the dotted line.

Next up was a **legal order from the Board to Jonathan Suters and Samantha Halley that addresses an attack by their dog, Luna.** On May 30, Denise Ulick of Lenox

was walking her dog, Viola, past the Suters' residence in Mill River village when Luna charged onto the roadway, picked up Viola in her mouth, and shook her. Mr. Suters and Ms. Halley agreed they were fully responsible for the attack and that they would pay the \$3,400 veterinarian bill that ensued from it. The order goes on to declare Luna a "dangerous dog" and specifies a number of conditions to prevent future attacks. Among them that Luna be penned in by a fence at least five and a half feet

high, be placed on leash whenever she was away from home, and be insured for \$100,000 against future possible attacks. Following the correction of minor errors, the selectmen agreed to sign the order.

The final agenda item dealt with a request from Treasurer Bob Noonan to move the submission of the payroll for Town employees from Monday to Tuesday and payday from Tuesday to Wednesday. The old schedule, said

Mr. Noonan, could compromise the accuracy of the payroll. The Board agreed to the request.

Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck announced that Town Clerk Kathy Chretien had succeeded in securing a \$5,000 grant for Covid-19-related equipment. One of the items: an ultra-violet wand that Ms. Chretien intends to use to disinfect the ballot box on Election Day. Ms. Fleck relayed a request from Butternut Tree Service that it be allowed to post signs cautioning drivers, some of whom it said were speeding, that trucks are entering and exiting Knight Road. Ms. White asked that Butternut touch base with Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring to make sure that the signs were placed so as not to impede roadwork. The Board, while expressing a bit of incredulity that anyone would risk speeding on the heavily pot-holed Knight Road, agreed to the request. □

Joe Poindexter

Because the culvert work on Route 57 is behind schedule, the paving work will be pushed into next year.



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View From The Board

Fall has arrived – and the beauty that comes with it. Warm days and colder nights are welcomed. But with this comes the urgency to complete road work in anticipation of the winter season and plowing of roads. Route 57 is having the culverts replaced, and although it was anticipated that the paving would follow this fall, it may not happen due to the time constraints on completing the culverts and the weather getting too cold. So, we may just have to wait until spring. Meanwhile, filling potholes and other road work continues to be done.

As this is written, early voting is taking place at Town Hall. Our town clerk, Kathy Chretien, is entering and checking in both absentee and early voting ballots. For anyone who is doing neither of the above and wants to vote on Tuesday, November 3, the hours are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Any questions should be directed to Kathy at 229-8278.

If you have been to the Transfer Station, you will notice that the Town is now separating the glass, plastic and cans from the newspaper and cardboard. There will be time for everyone to understand what can and cannot be recycled and to be sure that it goes into the correct containers. Any of the Transfer Station attendants can

help with your questions.

The Design Review Committee has been looking at ADA Compliance issues at the Town Hall and, along with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, is working with an architectural firm to design a plan that will work for both the downstairs office area and also allow use of the upper main floor. Once the committee has decided on a course going forward, there will be a presentation to the public for review and comments.

The Council on Aging has sent out a flyer asking if you used the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transport Corp. in the past and if you may need rides to appointments in the future. Several towns are currently discussing the need for this service and assessing how it would go forward now that the SBETC is no longer in business. Direct any questions or concerns you may have to Prue Spaulding or Marsha Harvey.

In closing, the Board hopes everyone stays safe and if there are any questions, suggestions, or comments from town residents, please feel free to contact us directly. Your input helps us to be sure we move forward in the right direction. □

Tara White

Highway Department News

Forecasters are calling for a snowy season compared to last year's relatively mild winter. The Highway Department is prepared for winter and will provide reasonable snow and ice control to public roads and properties. Our highest concern will continue to be personal safety, environmental protection, and cost. We are asking motorists to use common sense and recognize that they are traveling at their own risk in inclement weather. The highway crew is responsible for close to ninety miles of road. With five highway workers, one working foreman, and the highway superintendent, we ask for your patience and cooperation.

On school days, bus routes take priority. After the paved

roads are plowed, the unpaved roads are taken care of. During a rain storm, when road temperatures drop below 32°F, unpaved roads freeze almost instantly, and the sand that is applied quickly freezes over. We will treat roads during a storm and right after the storm passes, but please be aware that it is almost impossible to keep unpaved roads passable at all times. Sand, for residential use only, is always available at the Highway Garage under the shed on the left upon entering the yard. New Marlborough residents, no contractors please, are asked to take no more than two buckets at a time.

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property. Anything installed in the Town's right-of-way (mailboxes, fences, signs, etc.) is placed there at the owner's risk. The Postal Service recommends that mailboxes be placed six to eight inches away from the edge of the road. Creating an apron where the mail carrier can pull off the road to make deliveries is ideal. Because roads vary in condition, please use your best judgment and understand that the Town does not reimburse for property damaged by snowplows. Privately owned installations should be inspected regularly to ensure that they are secured properly and that wood posts have not rotted.

Please review the following guidelines:

- Use common sense and refrain, when possible, from driving during a snowstorm.
- Reduce your speed and drive cautiously.
- Avoid distractions. The hands-free law in Massachusetts prohibits operators of motor vehicles from using electronic devices while driving, unless the device is used

in hands-free mode.

- All-season radial tires are not the best choice during winter months in New England. Putting snow tires on your vehicle, or using studded tires if you travel on unpaved roads is recommended. We are responsible for the roads, not for your poor tires and your bad driving.
- Do not park your vehicle on any road or property that is maintained by the Town.
- Vehicles parked in driveways should be far enough off the road to allow plow trucks to pass safely.
- Plowing or blowing snow into Town roads is illegal and dangerous. Please find proper means to dispose of snow on your property; violators can be ticketed by the police.
- Tune in to the local weather forecasts and pay attention to changing conditions.

Please drive carefully. □

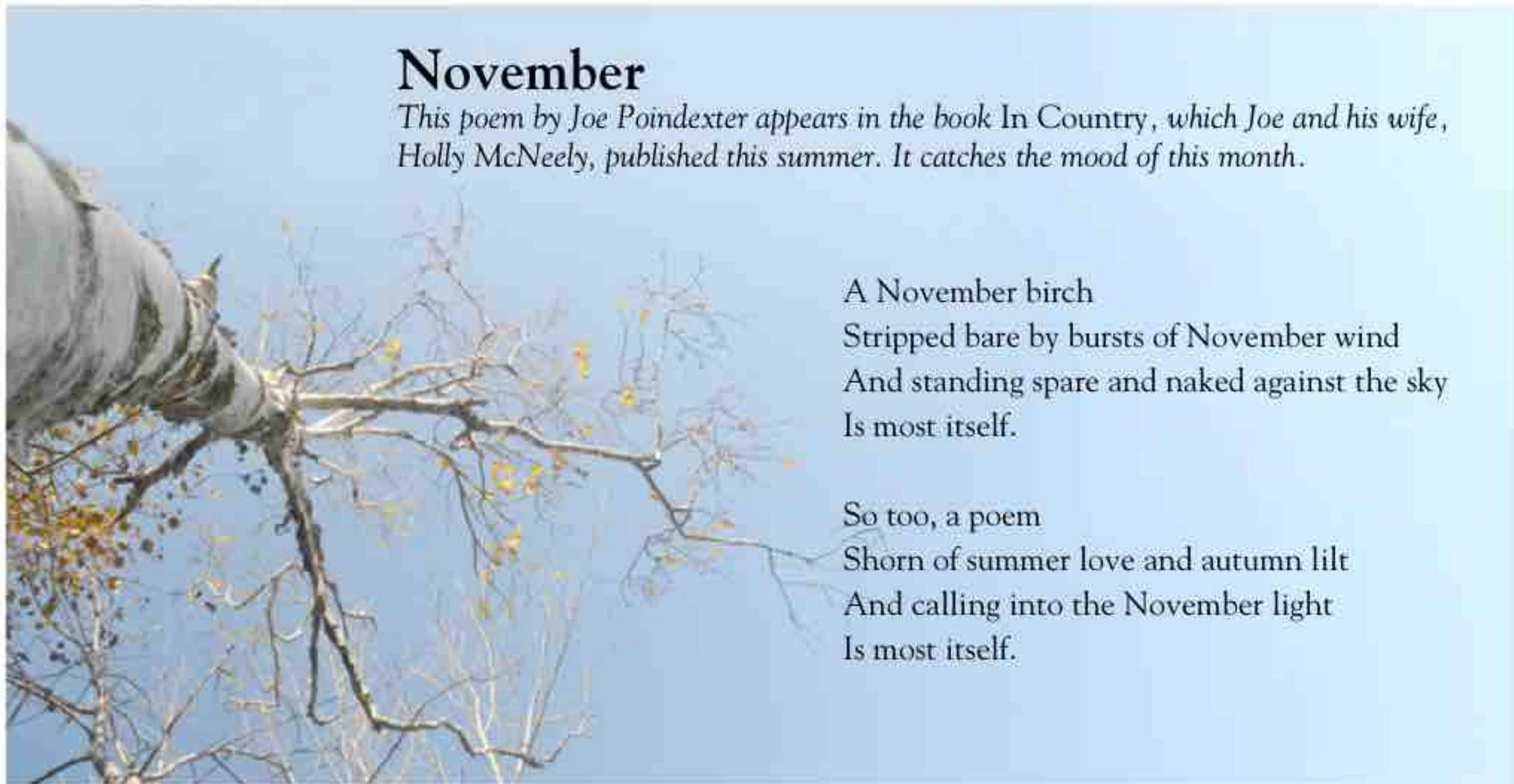
Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring

November

This poem by Joe Poindexter appears in the book In Country, which Joe and his wife, Holly McNeely, published this summer. It catches the mood of this month.

A November birch
 Stripped bare by bursts of November wind
 And standing spare and naked against the sky
 Is most itself.

So too, a poem
 Shorn of summer love and autumn lilt
 And calling into the November light
 Is most itself.



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MONICA ZINKE

Here to help

by Barry R. Shapiro

Early on the morning of August 15, Monica Zinke, the Town's newly hired emergency management director, was standing in the bright sunshine outside the huge tent housing the Town's Annual Meeting when the town moderator approached her with what was, to him, an emergency. The download of The Star-Spangled Banner, which he wanted to play to kick off the meeting, had disappeared from his iPad, the meeting was about to start, he needed to download another copy, but couldn't get an internet connection in the digital wasteland outside New Marlborough Central School. Monica didn't miss a beat, calmly took out her phone,



Monica with her son, Silas

saw that she had some connectivity, and provided a hot spot to the very relieved moderator, who quickly downloaded the file and headed off to gavel the meeting to order. Another emergency handled.

Of course, most of the emergencies that Monica faces in her professional life are of far greater import.

Monica, who relocated to Southfield from New Preston, Connecticut, in 2013, is a Certified Emergency Nurse, a veteran of the emergency departments at Sharon and Fairview Hospitals and is now, in addition to her role as emergency management director, the school nurse at New Marlborough Central, where her son, Silas, age six, is in first grade.

As the Town's emergency management director, Monica is responsible for ensuring that the town is positioned

to respond to and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. Working with the Board of Selectmen, Monica's responsibilities include building effective partnerships with government agencies and the private sector to ensure that the town can rapidly recover from disasters.

Monica's interest in becoming the head of Emergency Management stems from her desire to get involved with and to serve the community. "Public health and emergency management are so connected," she said. "I'm doing this to use my background on behalf of the town, to get to know

people here, and to help out. I work hard to coordinate work among our First Responders, Fire Company, and Police and Highway Departments during emergencies, serving as our liaison to National Grid and Verizon, and making sure that repair work can be performed safely and is properly prioritized. I'm also working to get the Town reimbursed from the federal government for expenses which the Town has incurred due to Covid-19, such as the out-of-ordinary expenses incurred for town meeting."

Hurricane Isaias provided Monica with a baptism under fire, blowing into town just a month after she assumed her new duties.

"I have been taking classes through the National Incident Management System, part of FEMA, but a lot of my knowledge comes from on-the-job training and Isaias provided plenty of that. I got very little sleep from its arrival on a Tuesday, I think, until Saturday. So many roads were blocked, and my initial focus was to make sure that emergency vehicles could get to people because many could not be accessed with all the trees down. I coordinated with the Fire Company and the Highway Department to make sure that National Grid had shut off power where needed so our people could clear the roads safely. There was a lot of triage and some delay as we waited for National Grid to arrive and do their work. Once the roads were safe and cleared and people could be accessed, we turned our attention to getting power back as soon as possible."



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Monica is quick to praise the Fire Company, First Responders, and Police and Highway Departments for their cooperation and assistance. "They are all great and I'm so grateful to all of them, including Maureen and Joe Krejci of the First Responders, Chuck Loring of the Fire Company and Highway Department, and, of course, Chief Graham Frank. I could not do my job without them and they have been so helpful to me."

Monica's positive feelings about her colleagues are reciprocated.

"Monica is a welcome addition to our town emergency services response," said Maureen Krejci, medical officer for the Town's Fire and Rescue. "She has a strong background in critical decision-making and has already shown her commitment to the community in just the few short months that she has been in the position. Having someone outside of the immediate Ambulance and Fire response teams, who is able to interact with state agencies and utilities, has been an invaluable resource during the recent natural disasters."

As the only paid employee of the Emergency Management Department, the total responsibility to discharge the Department's duties rests on Monica's shoulders, although there is an opportunity for a civic-minded resident (the position only provides a very modest stipend) to join her as deputy director. "Anyone interested in working with me to serve the community should please contact me," says Monica.

Monica, age forty-three, was raised on her parents' vegetable and fruit farm in North Canaan and is the eighth of nine children, with five brothers and three sisters. Her parents, now in their eighties and married sixty-one years, instilled in her the importance of community, volunteerism, and hard work. Her mother not only raised the large family but was also on the North Canaan ambulance corps, something that obviously has resonated with Monica.

"We all worked hard on the farm when we were growing up and that's something I still do. I'm now studying for my master's degree in public health, I work full time, and I'm

a mother, so my days are pretty full. I do, however, still try to maintain some balance in my life and enjoy paddleboarding on York Lake and elsewhere, gardening, hiking, and camping. I also worked this summer at Fairview as part of their Covid-19 testing drive-through facility."

It's obvious that helping people informs much of what Monica does, whether for the community through her role at the Emergency Management Department or her occasional shift at Fairview, which she considers a gem for the community.

"Fairview has been an amazing place to work," says Monica. "I was allowed to take care of my patients the way I wanted to when I went into nursing. We are all encouraged to be advocates for our patients and care for them the way we would want to be cared for."

Monica sums up her approach to both her patients and to her new responsibilities as emergency services director, when she says, "It's nice to be able to provide the care people deserve."

So, the next time the winds are howling, the snow is piling up, and trees are coming down, town residents can take comfort in knowing that Monica, along with all of the town's dedicated personnel, are out there doing their best to provide "the care people deserve." □

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EXPANDING HORIZONS

Editor's Note: The following interview with Angus Kerr was conducted by his father, Broc, and his sister, Evie, who are keeping the home fires burning while Angus explores life in a far-off land.

The last few months have seen an influx of new faces to our village and families to our school district. It has also seen the departure of our college-bound 2020 graduates to institutions including Syracuse, Wellesley, Cornell, Massachusetts Maritime, and Williams. Angus Kerr, a 2020 graduate of Mount Everett High School, started at University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, studying PPLE (politics, psychology, law, and economics). We interviewed him about how growing up in New Marlborough prepared him for college life.



Angus in Amsterdam

Q: What have your first few weeks leaving New Marlborough and studying abroad been like?

A: It's been a challenge. There has been many new and unexpected experiences, such as learning to ride a bike in traffic and shopping for myself while attempting to use a foreign language. Cooking and cleaning up for myself have turned out to be some of the little things I was not expecting to find so difficult – you have to do it day in and day out. Sorry, Mum. I also discovered the hard way that you can't make a cappuccino by putting milk in a stovetop percolator!

Q: How has the pandemic made your experience starting college different from usual?

A: This is my first time living alone, and the pandemic has made it harder than it would have been in a normal year. It's been hard to meet people, as school is fully online and there are no indoor meeting areas open. I tried to catch up with new friends in parks and open areas, but the sporadic rain made it hard to be out for long periods of time. Cafes have become my go-to place to meet and catch up with friends. Being Covid-safe in a big city has become second nature to me, even though social distancing here is quite different than living miles away from other teenagers, as was the case living in New Marlborough.

Q: Do you think your experience growing up in New Marlborough is different from those of the other students you've met?

A: Everyone has a background different from mine – most are from cities. I've found that no matter what city they grew up in, they still have more in common with each other than with anyone who grew up in a rural area, like I did.

Growing up in New Marlborough, I haven't had the typical European high school experience of going to nightclubs and bars from the age of sixteen. Instead of spending my weekends dancing to German Techno under flashing lights surrounded by hundreds of

people, I was shoveling manure and going to contradances with my friends – and I loved every minute of it (apart from the shoveling).

Q: Can you think of specific experiences growing up in New Marlborough that prepared you for college life?

A: Growing up in a small community created opportunities for personal connections with teachers, neighbors, and employers – all brimming with stories of lives in the arts, armed services, sciences, politics, and business... tales of intrigue and adventure in distant worlds that sounded a lot more interesting than the mundane tasks of manure-shoveling and menial labor that I was supposed to be doing.

Along the way, this listening and storytelling turned into opportunities to intern at a local historical society, serving as secretary to the Town's Planning Board, working on Trustees of Reservations properties, and even writing the odd piece for this very publication – all of which played an important role in shaping my interests and made for good stories on my college application essays.

I think that, having grown up in Mill River, I've learned to study and work independently from my home. This skill has really helped me get my work done for online classes, which many students are struggling with.

Q: What are you most thankful for about growing up in New Marlborough?

A: I have an appreciation for nature that I wouldn't have had, had I grown up in a city, thanks to experiences like floating down the Konkapot River and missions of

exploration in the woods. I also recognize the debt I owe to many in this community for offering me opportunities to learn, grow, and spark my interest along the way. The conversations, political and philosophical arguments, and tall stories I've heard in our small town have all

fueled my eagerness to go strut my own hour upon the stage. Thanks to all who have, both directly and indirectly, created the unique experience that growing up in New Marlborough has afforded me, opening doors to the world beyond. □



LAND TRUST NEWS

For those who frequent the trails, even daily, it is surprising to notice how different a trail experience is with a change in season. With the leaves now off many of the deciduous trees, new views are created, and the forest space opens up. Light reaches the understory and the shadows change. A familiar trail route becomes new again. In our own backyards there are miles of adventure and learning. Hope you find some relief out there!

A reminder that hunting season has started: bow season October 19-28; shotgun season November 30 - December 12. We recommend that you (and your dog) wear orange for your safety. Hunting is not permitted on Sundays.

Recent storms and winds continue to randomly down trees across the trails. Our amazing volunteers are on it...but if you get there before we do, make your way safely around the blowdown. Notify the Land Trust if you think we are not yet aware of an obstacle. Even in Covid times, we manage to assemble a crew, socially distanced and tooled up with rakes and saws. It is satisfying work.

In our continuing effort to improve our properties we have installed kiosks at both the Goodnow Preserve and the New Marlboro Preserve. Will Levin of Levin Woodworks crafted the kiosks from locust and white oak with expertly constructing lapped and pegged joinery. His care and attention to detail are his gifts to us all. Coming up...new trail maps and the first snow storm.


In the meantime, enjoy this stellar fall weather. Look up at the sky and let the falling leaves make you dizzy until you forget your troubles. Be well. □



photo by Martha Bryan

Mount Everett High School volunteer to the Land Trust Amelia Kemp admires the new kiosk at the New Marlboro Preserve and plots her escape into the woods!

Executive Director Martha Bryan



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NEIGHBORS



The Whip Shop in Southfield has a new owner, **Judy Newman**. She and her husband, **Jeff MacGregor**, purchased a home on Hotchkiss Road in June 2013; it was a weekend/vacation home until March of this year. When Covid-19 hit, they and their adult son, **John**, moved here fulltime, since they could continue their jobs remotely. Their daughter, **Rebecca**, and her husband, **Max**, also moved fulltime to their home on Norfolk Road with their infant daughter. Ms. Newman pointed out that the family is physically closer now than it has been in years.



photo by Jeff MacGregor

Judy Newman at work in her office in The Pin Shed at The Whip Shop

Ms. Newman has been a tenant in one of The Whip Shop's outbuildings for three years, maintaining a weekend office for her work as director of the Scholastic, Inc. Book Club. She loves the contact this position gives her with children, teachers, and educational non-profits, and has no intention of retiring any time soon. At the same time, she is learning about the town, the Whip Shop's history, and her own new role as owner. This represents a dramatic change in focus, as she said, "What do I know about being a landlord? Or engineering? Or construction? Or everyday maintenance?" She's learning as much as she can, as quickly as she can. For the moment, The Whip Shop will continue as it has been, since all the current tenants are staying. Ms. Newman is slowly mulling over plans for future development. She's seeking suggestions from a wide group of acquaintances and friends, and says she's been getting a number of interesting and creative ideas. As her plans develop, she'll share them in the NM5VN.



photo by Chelsea Prouty

Elizabeth and Harlan's dog, Mouse, managed to get into every picture!

Elizabeth Menaker, daughter of **Katherine Bouton** and **Daniel Menaker**, was married to **Harlan Wernz**, of New York City, on August 1. The wedding took place in her parents' backyard on the Mill River Great Barrington Road before a small wedding party of immediate family and their dog, Mouse. The ceremony was conducted by Reverend Steve White, of Great Barrington. Friends and relatives from around the world attended via Zoom.

The wedding dinner, on the Menakers' screened porch, was a showcase of local specialties: fried chicken and lobster rolls from the Old Inn on the Green; corn, tomatoes, and the bride's bouquet from Taft Farms; and a splendid wedding cake from The Sweetish Baker.

The bride and groom met in middle school in New York city, but met again for good in 2017. The bride is a psychotherapist in private practice, and the groom is a paramedic with the New York City Fire Department.

Graham Frank has returned to his administrative duties as New Marlborough's chief of police. At this point he's not sure when he'll be able to resume patrolling. This will depend on his progress in physical therapy and rehabilitation following his serious accident on August 30. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com



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Get Your Flu Shot!

A Visiting Nurse will be at Town Hall on **Thursday, November 12,** from 12:30 until 1:30 p.m.

to give Flu Shots to all Medicare and Medicaid residents who would like one.

Flu shots are **FREE** (Don't forget your mask.)

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

Barry Shapiro writes, “Marjorie and I were taking an early morning walk down Brewer Hill Road when we were startled by some very loud screams coming from a thicket of brambles alongside the road. Marjorie looked into the bush, which was being violently shaken by whatever was inside, and saw a **blue jay**, completely entangled in the growth and struggling desperately to free itself. We knew we had to try to help it so I reached in and gently took the bird in my hand while ripping away as many vines and brambles as I could. I managed to free the bird, but a mesh of thin vines which had trapped it were still tangled tightly around its wing. We were probably more frightened than the little bird, concerned that we might break its delicate wing. The beautiful bird looked at both of us, its beak wide open, but did not struggle or attempt to peck us. We quickly tore the vines apart and very, very carefully snaked them through its wing until the bird was free. At first, it didn’t move. It just sat in my palm, and I could feel both its tiny nails and the warmth of its soft body on my hand. Our little friend then turned to look at us, gave my hand a gentle downward push, and flew off onto the branch of a nearby tree. An amazing wildlife encounter, which made a beautiful fall morning unforgettable.”

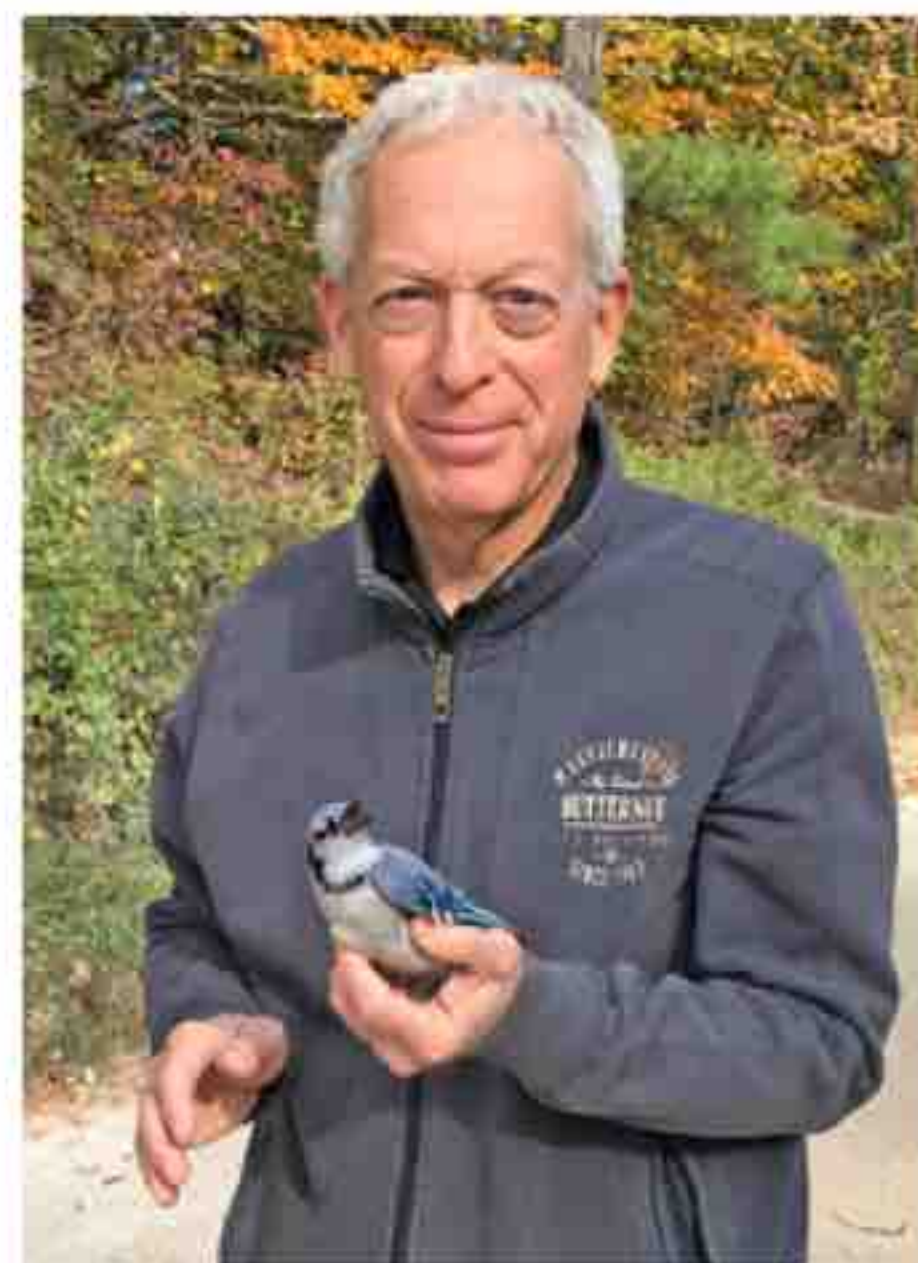


photo by Marjorie Shapiro

Our town moderator to the rescue!

Claire Gillette, who lives near Southfield village, wrote in on October 21, “I started a little early feeding the birds and now have this daily visitor. Mostly a southeastern bird, the **red-bellied woodpecker** has moved more northerly, so I was surprised to see him. Absolutely beautiful! We have the usual **chickadees, nuthatches, juncos, cardinals, blue jays, and chipmunks**. Other birds, too, just haven’t seen them close enough to identify.”



photo by Claire Gillette

A red-bellied woodpecker snagging a sunflower seed

Larry Burke has been hearing, more than seeing, wildlife – the faint calls of southbound **Canada geese** a thousand or more feet above, **sandhill cranes** clacking in a nearby field, **coyotes** raising a ruckus at night under the apple trees, a **kingfisher**, many **blue jays, pileated woodpeckers, hawks** and more hawks, and **owls, owls, owls**. Welcome sounds, all.

Don Beauchamp reports, “This morning, October 17 at 6:30 a.m., while I was reading, came a sound I thought was **coyotes** but turned out to be several **barn owls** having themselves a talk. And, during the week, visitors included **bluebirds, pine siskins, purple finch**, not to mention some **sparrows, juncos, cardinals, and nuthatches**, all of whom came at the same time and left as a group. Every day a **phoebe** sits below the apple tree and eats maybe bugs and worms from fallen crab apples. A small **bear** walked through the yard Thursday afternoon in the rain. I hadn’t seen it before, and none since momma and three little cubs came by earlier in the season.” □

Compiled by Larry Burke. Send your wildlife sightings and stories to larryjburke@gmail.com



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New Kids on the Block

By Robbi Hartt

You never can tell where a pandemic will lead you. That is true for many Brooklynites, who, like Deborah Curtis and Zoe Kogan, escaped with their families to the Berkshires in mid-April to an Airbnb, and ended up buying a home and staying long-term.

Stuck inside all day in a small apartment in Brooklyn, Zoe's son and daughter made it through tedious Zoom classes and homework without any place to go for a break afterward. "We lived near Prospect Park," Zoe notes, "but it was way too crowded to feel relaxed when people were exercising all around us without masks."

"It was a difficult time to be in the city," she explains. "City curfews and closed businesses made the streets desolate at night and many of the already-limited services for New Yorkers without access to housing were temporarily shut down. The lines for the supermarkets circled the block on most days and stores were out of toilet paper and cleaning products for weeks. We had been coming to the Berkshires every summer and always loved it, but we couldn't really justify moving here full time until now."

Zoe and her partner, both acupuncturists with a well-established business in Brooklyn, moved their family to Mill River in the spring, initially living in Broc and Fiona Kerr's farmhouse while the Kerrs were in Australia and "babysitting" the animals. "Can you imagine?" asks Zoe. "The whole city is locked down in this terrible state, and we come here, to this tiny village and jump into caring for sheep, ducks, rabbits, and experiencing this amazing community! It was like a different planet."

Well acquainted with the Berkshires through city friends and her daughter's annual summer hiatus to Camp Half Moon ("the best little camp in the Berkshires"), Deborah had already been looking for a second home as an investment opportunity when the pandemic changed everything. There was a "familiar community/family orientation here, as well as an abundance of open space" that mirrored qualities she valued in Brooklyn.

When the work/home school realities ramped up on March 11 as New York City had its massive surge, Deborah knew it was time to trade the tension of living in a dense area for attention to more basic things like the



The school bus is the highlight of the day. photo by Deborah Curtis

need for her daughter to walk freely outside and attend a school with smaller class sizes. It grew even harder to leave the apartment once the snow came in late April/early May during what should have been the beginning of spring.

Isolating in Southfield with another family in their "pod" made all the difference for Deborah and her daughter during the spring and summer months. When their close friends,

who had encouraged them to move to the Berkshires, returned to the city at the end of August, things felt harder, but her daughter was resilient. Being a NYC kid, she was naturally adaptive; changing schools and making new friends was a part of her upbringing.

Leaving International Charter School, which Deborah describes as a "wonderful school," was also less traumatic due to the warm welcome she and her daughter received from Charles Miller and Dan Weston at New Marlborough Central School. Her daughter is currently in school with half of her class two days a week and learning remotely two days, with intensive classroom cleaning on Wednesdays. "This is the best possible alternative," Deborah states, adding that her daughter is getting significantly more attention this way. "The school bus is the highlight of the day," she notes; "she went from riding subways and city buses to getting special treatment – being picked up right down the road on school days."

Zoe and her partner are licensed in New York and Massachusetts now, so they are able to continue their practice in Hillsdale and Mill River, which has made it possible for them to keep working and earning incomes. Both their daughter and son are enrolled in Berkshire Country Day School and are enjoying the ability to attend school while still maintaining safe distancing due to the expansive outdoor spaces the school offers. In contrast, their son's school back in Brooklyn had to shut down in its first week this fall due to new cases. This, they feared, would only continue as the seasons changed from fall to winter.

Adapting to living in the Berkshires while maintaining a demanding job in the city is a bit more challenging for Deborah, who started her new role as chief marketing officer of a ticketing and experiences company during the pandemic. "Technology was the biggest challenge,"

she explains – a reality not lost on anyone living in New Marlborough with a job involving communicating with other human beings. Building relationships through tech is hard but exploring what can be done virtually is redefining how she gets the work done. For now, at least, driving to an office in Canaan allows her sufficient connectivity to stay on top of her workload.

What are the perks of leaving DUMBO (short for Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass) or Park

Slope for a true country living experience in Southfield and Mill River? For Deborah and her daughter, one of the perks was arriving the first day to a yard filled with sandhill cranes, who came from Thousand-acre Pond and stayed all afternoon. “That was cool for us, meeting our new neighbors,” she smiles. “My daughter loves it here,” she adds. “In fact, she says she never wants to leave.”

Zoe echoes that sentiment. “This is the most beautiful place I’ve ever lived!” □

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

I write this sitting at my kitchen bench in mid-October, where I am being constantly distracted by the golden glow of my neighbor’s maple tree. The trees are so beautiful this year, and I feel like autumn knows that we need a bit of color and light in our lives this month. Even the rainy days have been behaving by bringing us much-needed water and then moving on, leaving us with clear blue skies.

I’m sure like many people, our Thanksgiving will look a bit different this year, with missing family members and plenty of changes of plans. For us that means having a “staycation,” and catching up on all the books, games, and jigsaw puzzles that we have been neglecting from the comfort of our own home, instead of going to Maine with friends. How thankful we are that our “staycation” will be in a home and community that we love, one that is safe, with clean air, lots of beautiful walks and plenty of fresh, local produce. What won’t change is our plan for a feast. We will continue experimenting with side dishes but Holly Morse’s Gratin of Braised Leeks, in the November 2018 issue of NM5VN has become a staple, and the Sweet Potato Casserole by Linda Fass, (November 2019 NM5VN) will be making another appearance. I was given this recipe by a friend over twenty-five years ago while we were living in Canada for their Thanksgiving, and will be adding this one to the sides this year. Not only is it easy and delicious, but it is the only sweet potato dish that Digby will eat. □

Fiona Kerr

Maple Ginger Sweet Potato

Ingredients:

- 1 lb sweet potato, peeled
- 1/4 cup maple syrup or honey
- 1-1/2 T fresh ginger, grated
- Olive oil

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 400° F
2. Cut sweet potato into 1/2" strips (similar to thick cut fries), toss in 1-2 T of olive oil
3. Mix the maple syrup or honey with the ginger and add to the sweet potato, stir to coat
4. Lay out sweet potato in a single layer in an oven proof dish and bake for 25-30 minutes
5. Happy Thanksgiving!

NB. I have a request: I had a lovely recipe for pecan pie that uses maple syrup instead of corn syrup which I lost last year and the one I tried as a replacement wasn’t as good. If anyone has a corn syrup-free pecan pie recipe that they would be willing to share with me, please email me at: Fiona.kerr.au@gmail.com

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Thank You to Our Contributors:

Katie Clifford; Hope Crocker; Edward B. Goodnow; Charles & Stephanie Rothschild; and Richard Long.

THE SCHOOL REPORT

GOOD START TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

On September 28, students began to return to Southern Berkshire Regional Schools. Superintendent Beth Regulbuto said, "It was so good to have even more of our school family back with us on the campuses today to start the Hybrid Learning Phase of the Reopening Plan. The faculty and staff have received training on remote learning. They are ready to teach our students through the Google Classroom platform using a combination of best practices that will include live, whole class instruction, teacher-led small group work, and independent work. I am sure there were things that went well and things that may have not gone as well as we had hoped, but we are all here to help, support, and learn from each other."

Jesse Carpenter, Mount Everett middle and high school principal, was elated to see kids back in the school buildings. He said, "It has been fantastic to see classmates and peers come back to together again within our walls. Mount Everett has seemed empty without them. We have been really pleased that the students are embracing the safety protocols we have put in place. It has been awesome seeing a teacher pose an essential question and students answering, debating, and exhibiting high level thinking skills in



Principal Charles Miller welcomes a young student on her first day. Extra effort has been made to make personal connections with students.



Mr. Tom Masters takes advantage of the good weather to teach his class outdoors at New Marlborough Central School.

person. We know that there still is fine-tuning that has to take place with our hybrid model, but we feel like we are in the right direction."

Elementary schools principal Charles Miller said, "Being in the building is a huge plus for everyone. I am so happy seeing the myriad creative ways teachers are planning, problem-solving, and implementing instruction in our hybrid model. Some staff who might have been more reluctant about using online tools in the past have dived headfirst into adopting them and are collaborating with peers to improve remote instruction. I have been inspired by how our kids have displayed resilience, persistence, and an overall positive attitude about making the best of the given circumstances." He is sympathetic to the struggles of the youngest learners who really need as much tactile in-person learning as possible. One drawback he noted is the lack of consistently good internet connectivity when kids are at home.

The teachers have had to redefine the meaning of individualized instruction. They are catering to four different groups in each classroom, who all have different

learning needs. While some students are physically in class four days a week, others come in either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday, and some don't come to school at all. Sixth grade teacher and Curriculum and Development Intern Julie Barros has been a leader (along with Tom Masters of New Marlborough Central School) in helping teachers rethink how they prepare lessons and providing instruction in how to use Google Classroom to teach children. Ms. Barros said, "I am thrilled that we started school remotely and have eased into the Hybrid model. Most students are doing well. In the sixth grade, half of the kids are missing assignments but it is mostly due to the learning curve of the online setup. We could use more up-to-date laptops and a bit more training for the parents. I am impressed with how both faculty and students have navigated this

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challenge with a lot of patience, resilience, perseverance, and kindness. I believe our community has been fantastic.”

A kindergarten teacher is also working hard for her students. She said, “Teaching can be challenging because we are preparing materials for children in the classroom on various days and children who are only at home. We have found some fun ways of engaging them and keeping them learning. It has been extremely helpful that we have parents who really want this to work for their children just as much as we also want it to! I am thankful for their patience and enthusiasm!”

Students are enthusiastic about being back at school. One fifth grader said, “I wish I could go five days instead of two. It is great to be back even though it feels different because we have only seven kids in our class. After morning meeting, we spend three hours using Google Classroom on our computers. Each of my subjects is in a separate folder on the site. When we are in school, we have a break for breakfast and another one to spread out for no masks. In the afternoon we have gym. On Wednesdays, when everyone is remote, we have a project to do. This coming week it will be for science.” His younger



Tents ready for classroom work outside, at New Marlborough Central.



Eliza and her Pre-K art project completed at home as she studies remotely. Eliza and her class are learning about apples. Great job cutting all by yourself, Eliza!

brother is in second grade. He said, “Well, I don’t use the computer at all on days I am in school. I just learn from my teacher. When we can’t go out to recess, they give us a fun bag with things to play with like play dough. I love being in school.”

From the parent’s perspective it is difficult to find a balance between fostering student independence and making sure that work is being done at home. For grades five and up the students have many assignments to do from home. One parent said, “I do not have the expertise to help my son navigate Google Classroom so that he can complete all the assignments. I have been emailing with the teacher which has been helpful. The paper packets they sent home last spring were easier for me. Hopefully I can be more helpful after I attend the parent training at the virtual open house on October 28.”

Jane Burke

SBRSD School Committee Chair



photos by Kari Giordano

Mount Everett high school English class reading The Catcher in the Rye in an outdoor classroom.

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THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Sept. 1 12:33 p.m. Their owner is notified after a Brewer Branch Road resident reports that nine cows have wandered into her front yard.
- Sept. 3 8:47 a.m. An officer assists in ridding a Rhoades and Bailey Road residence of a bat.
- 9:08 a.m. An officer removes a sick raccoon from a Hartsville New Marlborough Road residence.
- 12:08 p.m. A caller asks the Department's help in returning a Volkswagen Jetta key he found in a field behind his Konkapot Road residence to its owner.
- Sept. 4 10:28 a.m. National Grid notified of a tree on wires on Deerwood Park Road.
- 12:59 p.m. A resident reports that a joy-riding dirt biker is damaging a newly graded section of Canaan Valley Road.
- 4:36 p.m. A motorist reports she has injured a deer in a collision with her car on Main Road.
- Sept. 5 10:22 p.m. Following a number plate violation stop on Hartsville New Marlborough Road, the vehicle operator is issued a criminal complaint for driving with a suspended license.
- Sept. 7 11:31 a.m. An officer assists in rounding up donkeys that have wandered through a broken fence onto an Alum Hill Road property.
- 1:34 p.m. A caller complains of a party of more than fifty people at York Lake who were without masks and not socially distanced.
- 2:05 p.m. Southfield Store management is notified of a complaint of parking in the roadway near their establishment.
- Sept. 10 10:59 p.m. A pedestrian on New Marlborough Southfield Road, claiming to be suffering from hallucinations, asks for transport to a hospital.
- Sept. 11 11:35 p.m. A resident reports hearing fireworks near her Pine Street residence.
- Sept. 12 10:53 p.m. Officer transports a driver whose car has become disabled in New Marlborough village to his home in Canaan.
- Sept. 13 9:45 a.m. A caller reports sighting a small dog on her Foley Hill Road property that has been attacked by a porcupine.
- Sept. 14 11:00 p.m. Tree down on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Sept. 15 12:40 p.m. A caller reports a raccoon acting strangely in the area of her Clayton Mill River Road residence.
- Sept. 17 5:49 p.m. A Lake Buel area resident reports her boat missing from the lake; twelve days later, it is returned from a Pittsfield repair shop, where, mistaken for another boat, it had been taken.
- Sept. 18 7:09 a.m. The animal control officer is called to New Marlborough village to corral a sick-looking raccoon.
- Sept. 20 8:27 a.m. The animal control officer is called after a Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road resident complains that her neighbor's dog barks throughout the night.
- 9:05 p.m. Alerted by a Mill River Southfield Road resident that two of her neighbors had not returned from a hike, an officer eventually locates the hikers' car at Thousand Acre Swamp. Fire and Rescue personnel, state police, and a K9 patrol begin search of the state forest shortly after midnight. They suspend operations at 2:02 a.m., re-enter the forest at 7:24 a.m., and soon thereafter encounter the hikers, who have survived the incident uninjured.
- Sept. 21 3:12 a.m. An officer assists a pedestrian at the intersection of New Marlborough Southfield and Norfolk Roads who has become disoriented from a reaction with a medication to control high blood pressure.
- 1:32 p.m. A construction worker reports graffiti tagged onto a lower portion of the currently-under-renovation Umpachene Falls Road bridge.
- Sept. 24 9:24 a.m. A South Sandisfield Road resident reports that her name and identity has been used to create a fraudulent account with Verizon Wireless.
- 7:15 p.m. Cows reported loose on New Marlborough Southfield Road.
- Sept. 25 10:39 a.m. An officer assists a motorist who has locked himself out of his vehicle in New Marlborough village.
- 2:58 p.m. Fiber optic cable down on Tamaridge Road.
- 7:16 p.m. An officer assists with a disabled vehicle on Route 57.
- Sept. 26 8:36 a.m. Cows loose on Juniper Hill Road.
- Sept. 27 12:12 p.m. An officer transports a bicyclist, injured while riding on Brewer Hill Road, to Sheffield.
- Sept. 28 1:04 p.m. The Department notifies National Grid of a tree afire on wires on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 7:24 p.m. A tow is ordered for a vehicle, stopped for a lights violation, when an officer discovers that the driver is unlicensed.

- 9:03 p.m. A driver, stopped for a lane violation on Adsit Crosby Road, is arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol.
- Sept. 30 10:08 a.m. Spectrum is notified of a fiber-optic guide wire down on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 2:04 p.m. The Department helps secure a tow for a vehicle disabled on Mill River Great Barrington Road.

3:32 p.m. With the assistance of police department personnel from Sandisfield, Monterey, Tolland, and Sheffield, and state police, the driver of a pick-up truck is apprehended in woods off Route 57 near the Sandisfield town line after fleeing the scene of an accident on Clayton Mill River Road.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

FIRE AND RESCUE

- | | | | | | |
|----------|------------|--|----------|------------|---|
| Sept. 11 | 8:08 p.m. | New Marlborough Monterey Road Fire Alarm | Sept. 24 | 5:48 p.m. | Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road CO Alarm |
| Sept. 11 | 11:09 p.m. | Norfolk Road Medical Call | Sept. 25 | 8:10 p.m. | New Marlborough Monterey Road Medical Call |
| Sept. 16 | 10:16 p.m. | Stone Manor Drive Medical Call | Sept. 27 | 12:14 p.m. | Brewer Hill Road Bicycle Crash |
| Sept. 17 | 10:58 p.m. | Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call | Sept. 27 | 5:19 p.m. | Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call |
| Sept. 18 | 12:07 p.m. | Peter Menaker Road Fire Alarm | Sept. 28 | 1:06 p.m. | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Wires Down |
| Sept. 18 | 8:27 p.m. | Hatchery Road Medical Call | Sept. 30 | 2:37 a.m. | Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Medical Call |
| Sept. 20 | 7:52 p.m. | Stone Manor Drive Medical Call | Sept. 30 | 5:12 a.m. | Hillingdon Road Electrical Fire |
| Sept. 20 | 11:51 p.m. | Hotchkiss Road Missing Persons | Sept. 30 | 3:34 p.m. | Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call |
| Sept. 21 | 2:51 a.m. | Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm | | | |
| Sept. 21 | 3:22 a.m. | New Marlborough Southfield Road Medical Call | | | |
| Sept. 21 | 7:52 a.m. | Juniper Hill Road CO Alarm | | | |

Fire Company President David Smith

THE OCTOBER SURPRISE

During the brief, violent wind- and thunderstorm on October 7, a large tree came down which completely blocked the Mill River Great Barrington Road in central Mill River. While police, fire, and highway crews worked into the night, the road remained closed for a day and a half. One resident smelled wires burning in the house, so their power was turned off. The rest of the neighborhood didn't lose power until National Grid came to replace the pole that had snapped. They were the luckier ones, since many in town lost power for two, or even three, days.



photos by Laura Endacott

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

Anxious People, by Fredrik Backman
Chaos, by Iris Johansen
Evening and the Morning, by Ken Follett
House of Correction, by Nicci French
Magic Lessons: The Prequel to Practical Magic, by Alice Hoffman
Monogamy, by Sue Miller

Adult Nonfiction

The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness, by Sy Montgomery
How to Lead: Wisdom from the World's Greatest CEOs, Founders, and Game Changers, by David M. Rubenstein

Children's Fiction

Fowl Twins, by Eoin Colfer
Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It,
 by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Show Me a Sign, by Ann Clare Lezotte
Sun Flower Lion, by Kevin Henkes
Ten Ways to Hear Snow, by Cathy Camper
Willa's Butterfly Ballet, by Judy Katschke

Children's Nonfiction

Finish the Fight!: the Brave and Revolutionary Women Who Fought for the Right To Vote, by Veronica Chambers
Sir Cumference Gets Decima's Point: A Math Adventure, by Cindy Neuschwander

DVDs

A Beautiful Place to Die: a Martha's Vineyard Mystery
Dead Still
The Secret Garden
Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan Season 1 & 2

The New Marlborough Library
 will return to our pre-COVID hours
 beginning November 9

Monday - Wednesday - Saturday
 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday
 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday
 1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Library will be closed
 November 26 & 27.



Dedication

The Dedication of the Revolutionary War Monument

will be held in front of the
 New Marlborough Library

on November 11 at 11:00 a.m.

Courtney Turner, commander of the
 New Marlborough American Legion Post 350
 will be the Master of Ceremonies

(413) 229-2544
 Free Estimates

Roofing
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Herbert W. Eichstedt III
 Jason W. Eichstedt

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

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

NAME _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Town Times

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Building Inspector: Monday 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.

PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 6

and can be purchased for \$150

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

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Janice Boults,

Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke, Robbi Hartt,

David Lowman, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro,

Sandra Fusco-Walker. Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger,

Fiona Kerr. Index: Donna Weaver

NM5VN Board of Directors

Roy Blount, Jr., Larry Burke, Barbara Lowman, Deb O'Brien,

Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Mary R. Smith,

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 December 2020.

All copy must be submitted no later than November 18.

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

PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

New Marlborough 5 Village News
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SERVICE SECTOR 11/20

- ♦ **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
- ♦ If you are looking for short term rehabilitation, physical therapy, senior living, skilled nursing or memory care, look no further than **Noble Horizons**, proud recipient of Medicare's premier 5-star rating. Just over the border in Salisbury, CT. www.NobleHorizons.org 860-435-9851; 17 Cobble Road Salisbury, CT.
- ♦ **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com or (413)528-4300
- ♦ **Reiner White & Sons, Inc:** A family-run general contractor business serving the MA and CT area since 1988 - new construction, additions, remodeling, and more. Licensed and insured. Call (413) 229-8450 for free consultation.
- ♦ **Shift Happens:** causing stress, anxiety, depression. Take steps – feel better, in life, love, work, school. Psychotherapy works. Adults/adolescents. Susan Winston, Great Barrington 818-618-0775

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